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PUGIN'S
ORNAMENTAL GABLES



By AUGUSTUS PUGIN, ARCHT.

L O N D O N :

HENRY G. BOHN, YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

A S E R I E S
OF
ORNAMENTAL TIMBER GABLES,
FROM EXISTING EXAMPLES
IN
ENGLAND AND FRANCE,
OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

Drawn on Stone

By B. F E R R E Y,

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

A. PUGIN:

WITH

DESCRIPTIVE LETTER-PRESS,

By EDW. JAMES WILLSON, ARCHITECT, F.S.A.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY A. PUGIN, AT HIS OFFICE, 105, GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY:
AND SOLD BY J. TAYLOR, ARCHITECTURAL LIBRARY, 59, HIGH HOLBORN;
AND PRIESTLEY AND WEALE, HIGH STREET, BLOOMSBURY.

1831.

LONDON:
J. MOYES, TOOK'S COURT, CHANCERY LANE.

LIST OF PLATES OF TIMBER GABLES.

- TITLE. Dormer-window of Ford's Hospital, Coventry.
- PLATE I. Gable in ditto, and Ornaments in Bond's Hospital, ditto.
- II. Gable in Hay Lane, and Bracket in Bayley Lane, do.
- III. Ditto in Bond's Hospital, do.
- IV. Ditto in Wells Street, do.
- V. Ditto in Bayley Lane, do.
- VI. Ditto in Bond's Hospital, do.
- VII. Ditto in Wells Street, do.
- VIII. Ditto in Ford's Hospital, do.
- IX. Ditto in Bond's Hospital, do.
- X. Ditto in Ford's Hospital, do.
- XI. Ditto in ditto, do.
- XII. Ditto in Bond's Hospital, do.
- XIII. Ditto in Butcher's Row, do.
- XIV. Ditto in Bayley Lane, do.
- XV. Ditto in ditto, do.
- XVI. Ditto in ditto, do.
- XVII. Ditto in Wells Street, do.
- XVIII. Ditto in Liecester's Hospital, Warwick.
- XIX. Ditto in Bond's Hospital, Coventry.
- XX. Ditto, &c. in Bayley Lane, do.
- XXI. Fronts of Bond's and Ford's Hospitals, &c. Coventry.
- XXII. Gable at Abbeville, France.
- XXIII. Ditto, ditto, do.
- XXIV. Ditto, ditto, do.
- XXV. Ditto at New Brentford, Middlesex.
- XXVI. Ditto at Rochester.
- XXVII. Ditto at Eltham Palace, Kent.
- XXVIII. Ditto at Abbeville, France.
- XXIX. Ditto, ditto, do.
- XXX. Ditto at Eltham Palace, Kent.

INTRODUCTION.

IT is remarkable that, amongst the many works published on the architecture of the *middle ages* so little attention has been given to edifices constructed of timber and plaster. Nevertheless, some examples of this sort of building may justly claim our admiration, both for the skill displayed in their construction, and the richness and delicacy of their ornaments. The finest examples remaining, of this description, will be generally found in towns which enjoyed commercial prosperity in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, at a time when the decoration of architecture was carried to the highest pitch of elaborate workmanship. Formerly, almost all private dwellings in populous towns consisted of timber and plaster; and the wealthier class of citizens and burgesses displayed their opulence in decorating the fronts of their houses with sumptuous and elaborate ornaments. The preference of timber-work instead of masonry is apt to excite our surprise; but circumstances peculiar to those times were found sufficient to justify the choice. Whilst towns were circumscribed by fortified walls, their principal streets were much crowded with inhabitants, so that every contrivance was used to gain room for dwellings. This was one reason why fabrics framed of wood and plaster were so common; as the thinness of their sides, and the gradual projection of the upper floors beyond the limits of the ground-plan, made such houses more capacious than they could have been, if built with walls of masonry. They were also erected with less expense, as oak timber was very plentiful formerly, in most parts of England; and but little apprehension was entertained of danger from fire, chimneys being few in number, and those were solidly built of brick or stone. The roofs of these old-fashioned houses were commonly raised in steep and narrow ridges, divided by lead gutters, with one end turned towards the front. Hence the gables became very prominent, and the richest decorations of mouldings and carved work were freely bestowed upon them.

A variety of such ornamented gables forms the subject of the following

plates; the greater part being taken from the city of Coventry, where many curious examples of antient timber-work still remain, although few have escaped without the mutilation of their original finishings, in successive repairs or alterations.

Bond's Hospital was founded A.D. 1506, by Thomas Bond, citizen of Coventry, who had filled the office of mayor in the year 1497. He endowed it for the maintenance of a priest, ten poor men, and one woman. The chaplain was to preach and celebrate divine service before the brethren, and to pray for the souls of the founder and his family, and of all the faithful departed. This institution was dissolved as a chauntry in 1547; but the corporation of the city shortly afterwards procured its restoration from the young king, Edward VI., and it has ever since continued to exist under their patronage, and has been considerably increased. About fifty years subsequent to Mr. Bond's foundation, a free-school for the instruction and support of poor boys was established by the city, in some adjoining buildings, which school has since been enlarged by the benefactions of different persons. The whole of this institution is usually called *Bablake Hospital* from the name of a more antient religious foundation, to which the church of St. John was attached.

The buildings surround a court, the north side being formed by the apartments of Bond's Hospital, from which the subjects of several of the following plates have been selected.

Ford's Hospital was founded by Mr. William Ford, citizen of Coventry, in the year 1529, for the support of five poor men and one woman. This institution was afterwards so much improved by other charitable persons, that the number of its inmates has been increased to twenty-one. This is commonly denominated the *Grey Friar's Hospital*, from its being situate close to the ruined convent of the Franciscans, or Grey Friars. The buildings of this hospital enclose a narrow court, into which the habitations of the brethren enter; and the whole has been well preserved, considering the length of time which has elapsed since the foundation.

The rest of the examples of ornamented gables are given from private houses in Coventry, and other places; and it is hoped that the collection will be found useful to the architectural student, the whole being carefully measured, and drawn with strict fidelity to the originals.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE I.—No. 1. This gable is situated on the west side of the court of Ford's Hospital. The top of the pinnacle has perished, which destroys the termination of the whole design, complete in other respects. The section of mouldings, on the right hand, shews the form of the cornice that connects the different parts of the court.

No. 2. These two details are parts of Bond's Hospital.

PLATE II.—No. 1. The gable here represented belongs to a house in Hay Lane, Coventry. It is beautifully designed, and retains the cusps of the tracery entire. The rest of the front is not worthy of particular notice.

No. 2. Represents one side of a bracket supporting the projecting corner of a house in Bayley Lane. It is sculptured in relief with considerable taste.

PLATE III.—This belongs to a dormer-window in Bond's Hospital; it resembles that shewn in Plate I., in the general style; and, like it, has lost the upper end of the pinnacle. The lower part of this ornament is shewn separately, on an enlarged scale.

PLATE IV.—The tracery that decorates this gable is very delicately carved and perforated, the lower points being guarded by continued fillets. A singularity is observable in the turning of the little arches of the tracery, to accommodate them to the oblong quatrefoils which are inserted in the middle of each larger arch. A section of the upper part has been placed on the left hand of the elevation.

PLATE V.—The tracery on this gable bears a considerable resemblance to that shewn on the preceding plate, but has had a pinnacle in the centre, which is quite lost, whilst the gable in Wells Street seems never to have had such an ornament. The gable in Bayley Lane has been removed from

the corner of St. Mary's Hall, and in putting it up after the removal, the right position of the tracery was unluckily reversed, so that the two lower points are now joined together at the top; but the design is here restored to its original form.

PLATE VI.—Is taken from another dormer-window of Bond's Hospital. The two little shields on the tie-beam are sculptured with the armorial bearings of the founder. The pinnacle is totally gone.

PLATE VII.—Represents a gable in front of a house in Wells Street, which retains much of its antient style uninjured. The whole of this work is deserving of attention, for the neatness of the ornaments, to which nothing is wanting but the pinnacle that originally terminated the apex.

PLATE VIII.—This belongs to the central window in the chamber-story of Ford's Hospital. It resembles the preceding examples from Bond's Hospital, and is very richly carved. The pinnacle has been cut off both at the top and bottom, to the great injury of the general effect; the other parts remain perfect.

PLATE IX.—The small gable here represented is attached to another of much larger size, in front of Bond's Hospital. The tracery is of an elegant pattern, but does not unite well with that of the larger gable, which is very different. The top of the pinnacle is wanting.

PLATE X.—Is a most elaborate specimen of enriched style, selected from Ford's Hospital, where it covers a projecting window of the upper story. It is to be lamented that so prominent a feature as the central pinnacle should be mutilated, the other parts being of most elegant design.

PLATE XI.—Displays another gable from the same hospital, of similar style to the preceding, but enriched with different patterns of sculpture. It faces the interior of the court, and the returns of the cornices are shewn on each side of the gable.

PLATE XII.—The gable here shewn belongs to a window of Bond's Hospital, and exhibits another variety of sculpture.

PLATE XIII.—The tracery that ranges along the sides of this gable is designed with considerable taste; and the manner in which it unites with that on the adjoining one is particularly to be admired. It is taken from a house in Butcher's Row.

PLATE XIV.—From a house in Bayley Lane. This example is of a plainer character than the preceding ones, but is neatly designed, in the style prevalent about the middle of the sixteenth century. The pinnacle is entirely taken away.

PLATE XV.—From another house in Bayley Lane, is a neat example of enrichment, without much boldness. From the remains of the pinnacle, it seems to have been erected about the time of Queen Elizabeth, when a different style of ornament began to prevail.

PLATE XVI.—Shews another example of the same date and style as the preceding one; with ornaments more decidedly borrowed from Italian architecture. It is also taken from a house in Bayley Lane.

PLATE XVII.—This gable belongs to a house in Wells Street. The tracery on the sides is of similar pattern to that shewn in Plate XIV. This, with all the preceding examples, has been taken from buildings in Coventry.

PLATE XVIII.—A very elegant example of perforated tracery is here given, from a gable in the hospital at Warwick, founded by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, the celebrated favourite of Queen Elizabeth. But the style of ornament evidently belongs to an earlier period, and this part of the building is perhaps a remnant of the Gild of St. George, a religious institution dissolved in 1547, which antiently occupied the site of Leicester's Hospital.

PLATE XIX.—This gable belongs to Bond's Hospital, at Coventry, and adjoins to the smaller one represented in Plate IX. The tracery is of a neat pattern, though not so elaborate as that on the smaller gable. There is no pinnacle on the top, and perhaps never was. The tie-beams are enriched with foliage, and three of the massy studs which form the front of the gable are embellished with slender pinnacles.

PLATE XX.—No. 1. The tracery on the sides of this gable is of similar pattern to the examples shewn in Plates XIV. and XVII., with slight variations. The pinnacle is modern, and of a mean style, unsuitable to the sides.

No. 2. Displays some rich tracery carved on a story-post which originally belonged to the buildings adjoining to St. Mary's Hall, part of which were removed in order to give a better view of the hall and its oriel-window. That venerable edifice appears to have been erected in the reign of Henry VI., and this fragment is probably of the same date. Both subjects of this plate are now in Bayley Lane, Coventry.

PLATE XXI.—In this plate the fronts of three buildings are represented more completely than in the preceding plates, all of them being framed with timber, and of similar date and style; and all situated at Coventry, a city abounding in the remains of ancient timber-work.

No. 1. The first is a small dwelling, of a neat, cottage-like character: the gable is of good design, and retains its original ornaments, with the exception of the pinnacle on the top, which is entirely wanting. The windows were probably adorned with tracery, in a similar style to the other examples, though they are now plain; and the door-case, and other parts, seem also to have been stripped of their proper mouldings.

No. 2. Is an elevation of part of the front of Bond's Hospital, founded in the year 1506, from whence several of the preceding plates were also taken; particularly Plate IX., which gives the small gable in this front, and Plate XIX. which shews the large one adjoining to it.

No. 3. Ford's Hospital has also furnished some pretty examples of carved gables, in the preceding plates, of which Plate VIII. shews the one over the window in the middle of the front. This charitable foundation was erected in the reign of Henry VIII. A. D. 1529, and fortunately escaped the rapacious hands that seized on such an immense mass of the patrimony of the poor a few years afterwards. The design of this front is very nearly regular, and presents an interesting specimen of domestic architecture, without the least pretensions to grandeur, but sufficiently decorated with proper ornaments to relieve it from the appearance of meanness. The windows of the above two hospitals are well deserving of notice, for the variety and elegance of carved work which adorns

them. The mullions are of much lighter substance than those of windows formed with stone, and the mouldings are proportionably smaller. The principal divisions are adorned with little buttresses, and the lights are decorated with perforated tracery, of various patterns, similar to the screens in churches of the same age. Those in the chambers project forward, so as to allow of the placing one light in each side, by which the inhabitants might look out towards the right or left hand. The bottom of these windows was flat on the inside, and was set at a proper height from the floor for persons within the rooms to rest their arms upon it; the windows in the houses of rich people being formerly furnished with cushions for this purpose. In the construction of these buildings each story was framed separately, and afterwards taken to pieces, and put together again on the proper site. The walls, if they may be so termed, were made up of *studs* framed in parallel lines, and grooved on the edges, the intermediate spaces being filled with plaster, forming altogether a solid mass, about four or five inches in thickness. Many houses of great size were framed in this manner, before bricks became cheap and common, and oak timber grew scarce, for the inhabitants, not only of towns, but for the residence of knights and esquires on their own estates; and many such mansions may yet be found, especially in Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, and Warwickshire, though very few now remain in perfect preservation.

PLATE XXII. Gable of a house at Abbeville, France. In the ornaments of this building there is a mixture of styles, similar to what is observable in English buildings of the age of Queen Elizabeth. The introduction of Roman or Italian architecture into France took place in the early part of the sixteenth century, and appears to have been adopted more speedily there than was done in this country. The houses of the French towns were generally constructed of timber, and a great proportion of dwellings of this description still exists. This building, undoubtedly, was erected in the sixteenth century. The images represent different saints.

PLATE XXIII.—This is another gable from a house at Abbeville, carved with a diversity of ornaments, but of similar style to the preceding one. In this building the studs and braces of the framing are left uncovered, whilst in that shewn in the former plate the plain frame-work is entirely ceiled over with plaster; a fashion seen in England in the later class of timber houses.

PLATE XXIV.—This building is situated in the same town, and exhibits another specimen of the mixed style; the scrolls and other ornaments being borrowed from Italian architecture, but applied to structures of very different character. The top point is finished by a crest of metal, forming a sort of garland; and on the central post are two figures of saints carved in wood. The profile of these ornaments is given in the section.

PLATE XXV.—Gable at New Brentford, Middlesex. The fret-work on the sides of this gable is very elegant, and belongs to the last period of the *Gothic* or *pointed* style, as practised in the latter part of the fifteenth and the earlier years of the sixteenth century.

PLATE XXVI.—This specimen belongs to the same period as the preceding one. The pattern of the ornamental work is similar to some already described, and is of a very good style.

PLATE XXVII.—Gable at Eltham Palace, Kent. This subject is taken from part of the royal palace at Eltham, now mostly in ruins, and converted into a farm-stead. Only a small portion of the ancient lodgings is now remaining, which stands near the great hall, and seems to be a part of the buildings erected by Edward IV. or Henry VII.* It has two gables in front, joined together, and edged with fretted tracery of nearly the same patterns. The pendent in the centre probably was carried up into a pinnacle, above the ridge of the roof, though nothing of this is now seen. The projection of the roof over the wall is very bold, as is here shewn in the section.

PLATE XXVIII.—Gable at Abbeville. In this gable the mixture of Italian ornaments is not so plainly observable as in those already given from the same town; yet it appears to be of the same date as that in Plate XXII., from the similarity of the tracery running on the sides of the roof. This appears to be formed of two slender branches bending over each other alternately, in waving lines, and studded at regular intervals with buds, or short thorns. In the former example, the spaces formed between the branches are filled with flowers; in this they are pierced and left open. Four small statues are carved on the timbers, of which that in the point of the gable wears the mitre and other insignia of the episcopal order.

* See the “ Examples of Gothic Architecture,” now in course of publication, by A Pugin.

PLATE XXIX.—Gable at Abbeville. The scroll, and other ornaments, that are carved in this front, are decidedly of Italian style, resembling those shewn in Plates XXIII. and XXIV.; and considerable taste has been displayed in their application. The windows of this, and the other subjects taken at Abbeville, are of mean forms, unsuitable to the rich ornaments that surround them.

PLATE XXX.—Gable at Eltham Palace, Kent. This gable adjoins to that shewn in Plate XXVII., and no farther description seems requisite to be added to what has been already given.

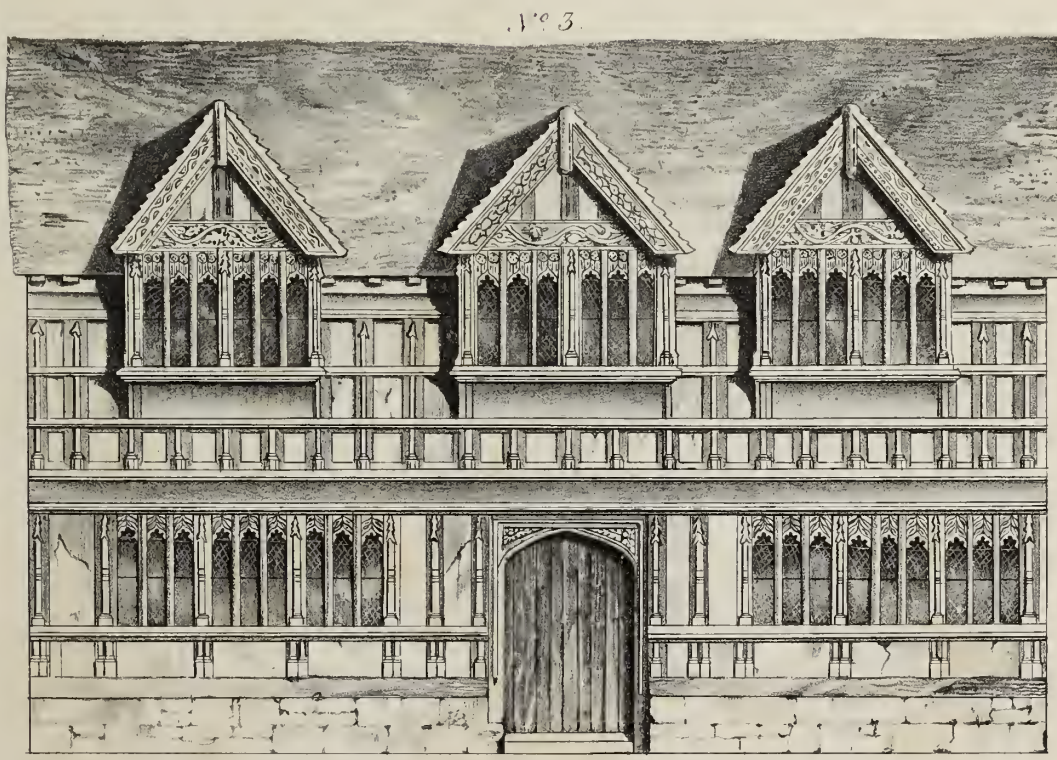
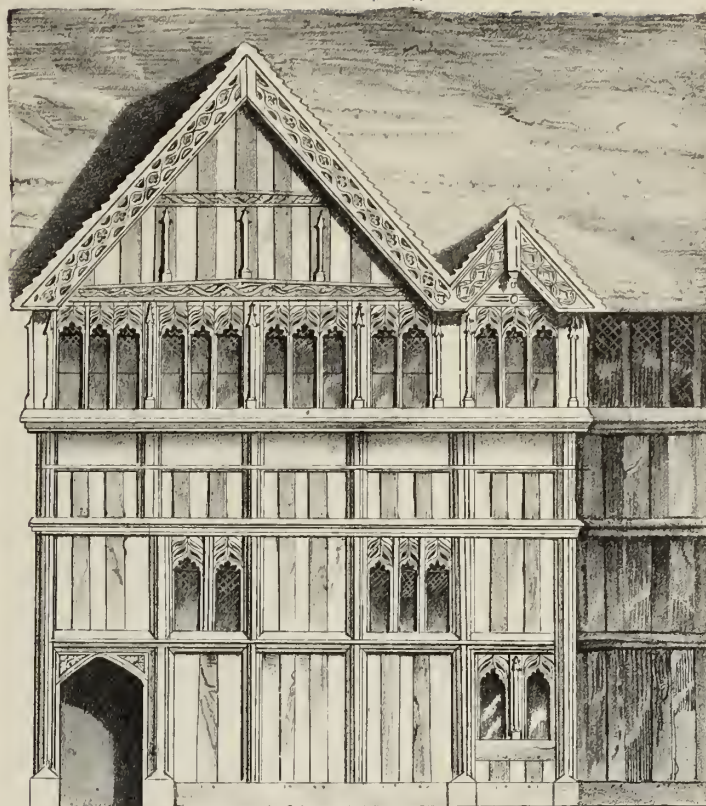
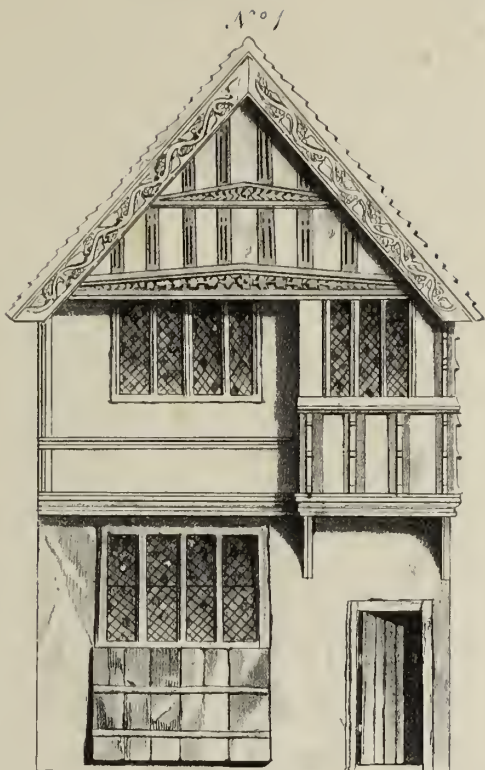
TITLE.—This plate is taken from Ford's Hospital, at Coventry, and represents one of the chamber-windows, with the gable of the little roof that covers its projection. The pinnacle has unfortunately been cut off, both at the top and bottom. The lower end undoubtedly finished with a pendent ornament somewhat similar to that shewn in Plate III. How the upper part terminated cannot be exactly ascertained, as all the gables have lost this ornament. It is probable, however, that a carved figure of some animal [as a lion or bear,] holding a banner, was set on the top of each pinnacle; or they might be finished with a little embattled canopy and a crocketed finial.*

* The collegiate church of St. George, in Windsor Castle, was originally surmounted with many such figures, though they have fallen to decay, and been removed from the pinnacles. Some examples are yet remaining at Hampton Court, and other buildings of the same date.—See “Specimens of Gothic Architecture,” vol. ii. Pl. I. and II.

THE END.

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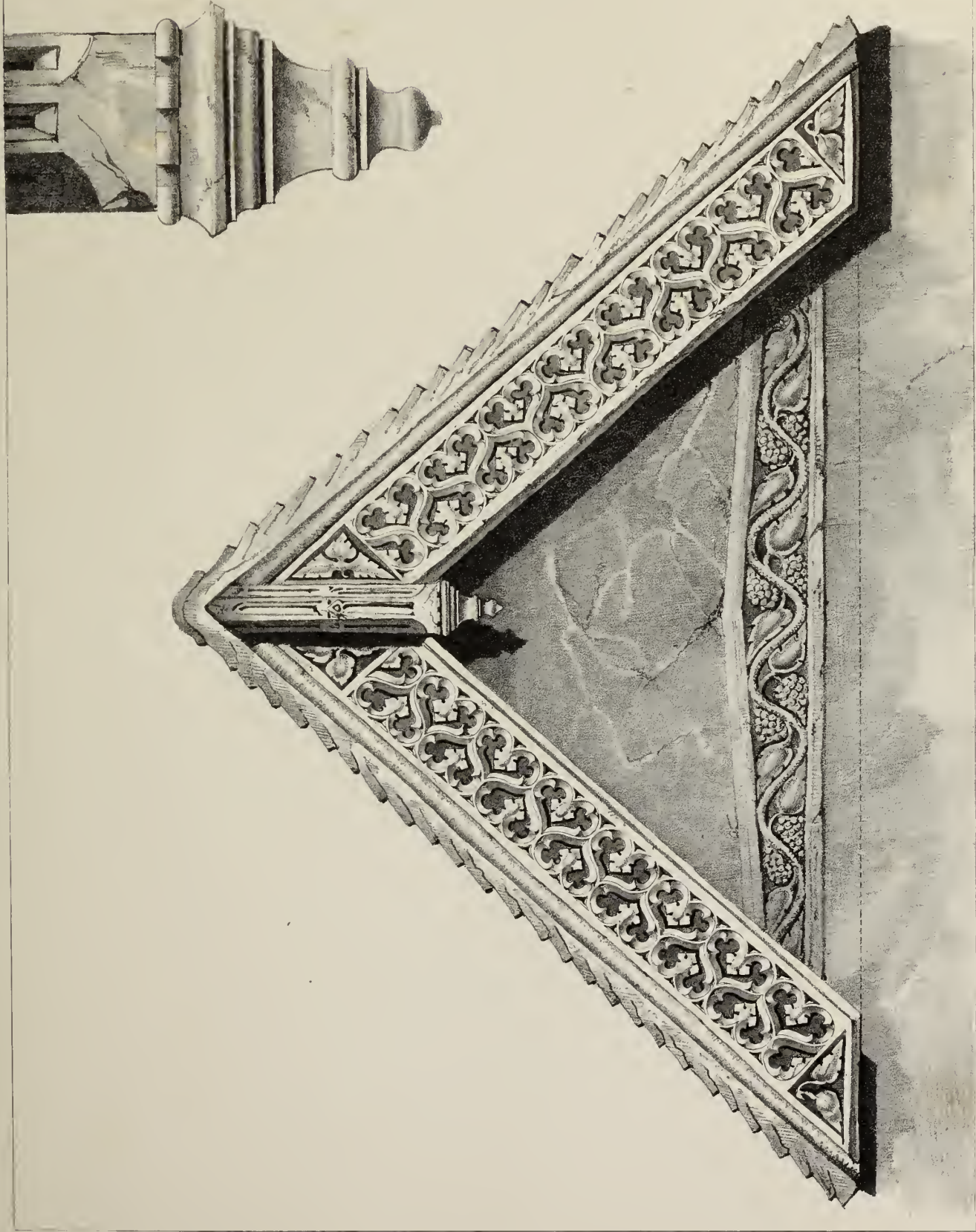
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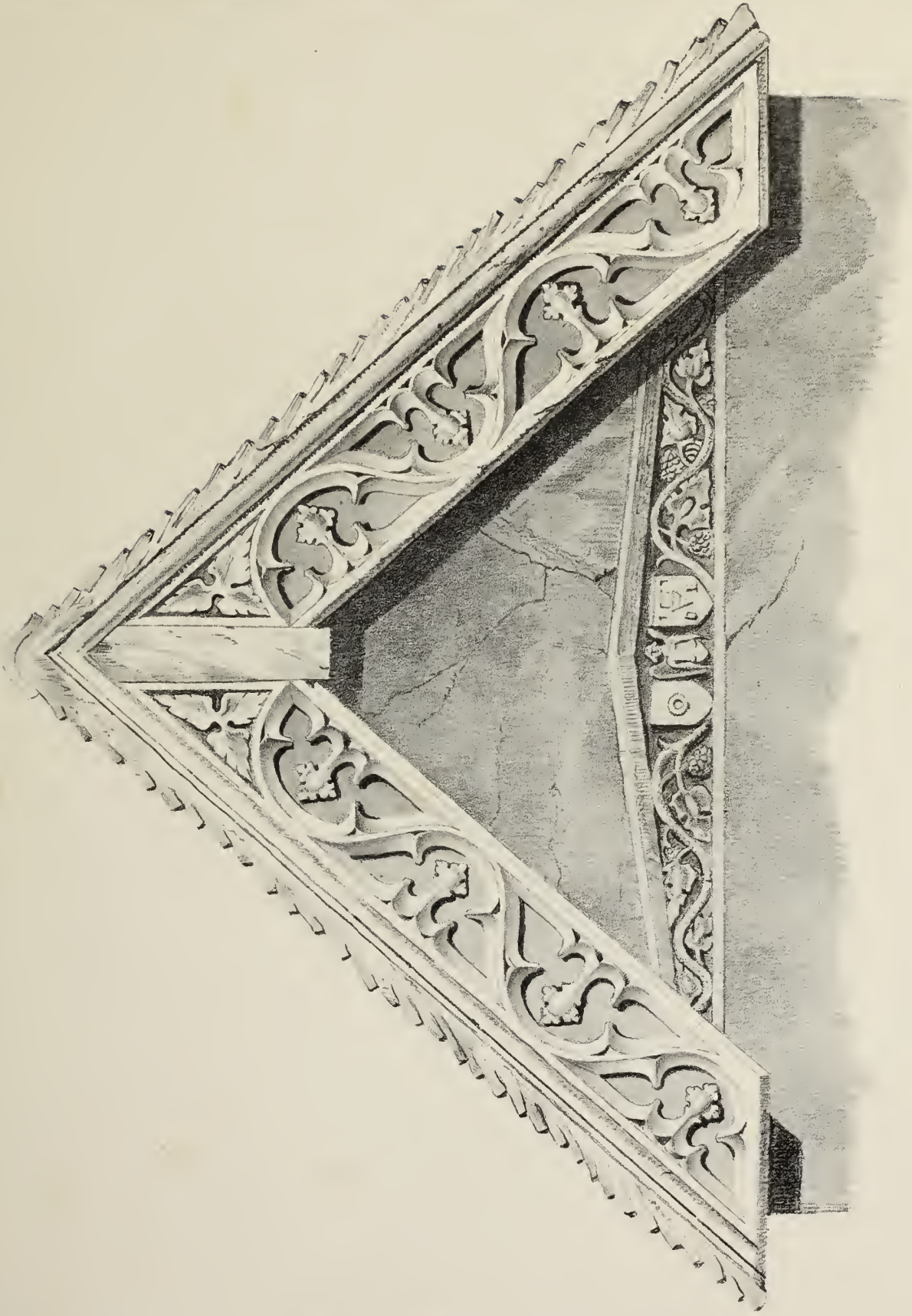


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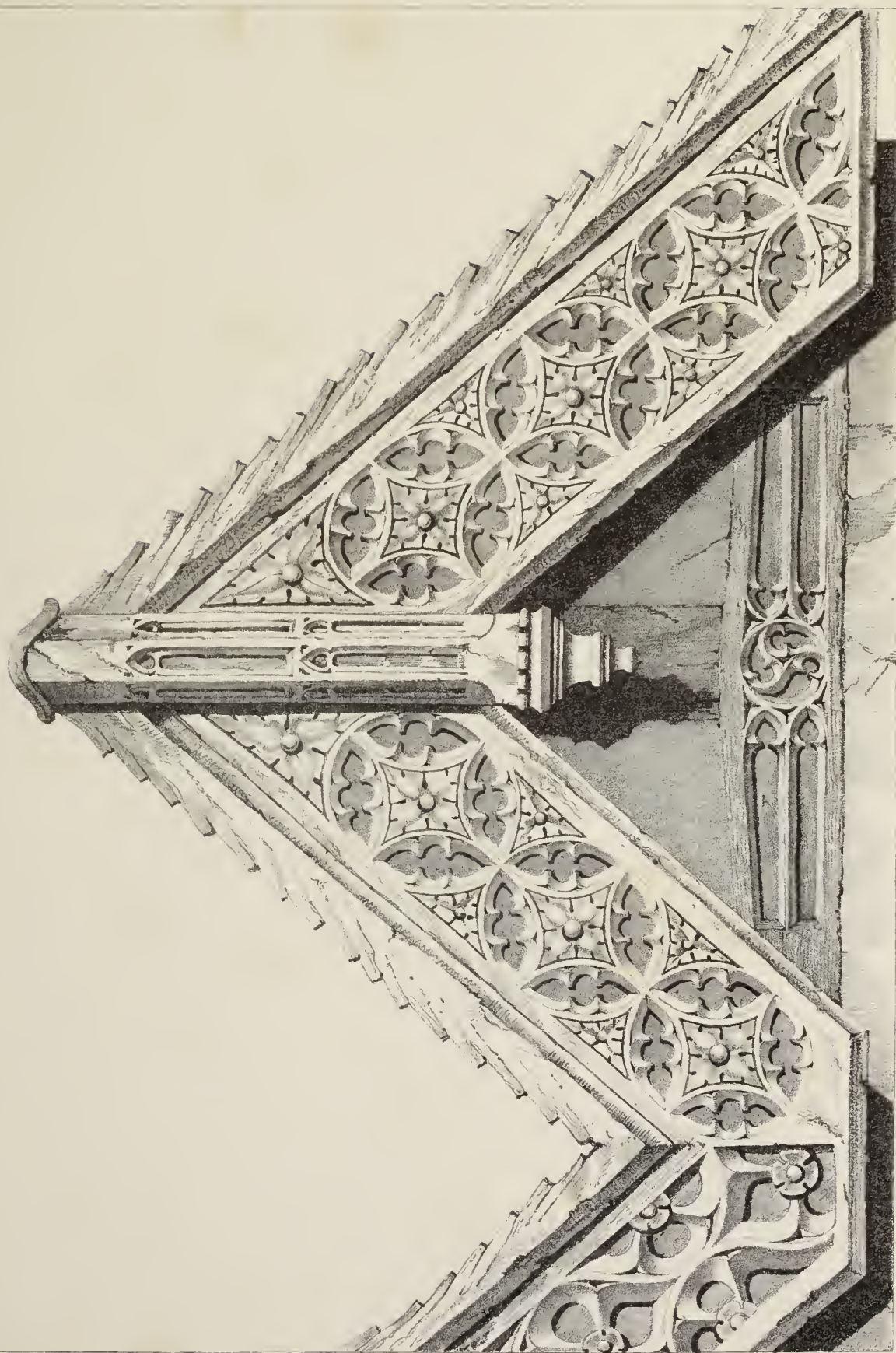


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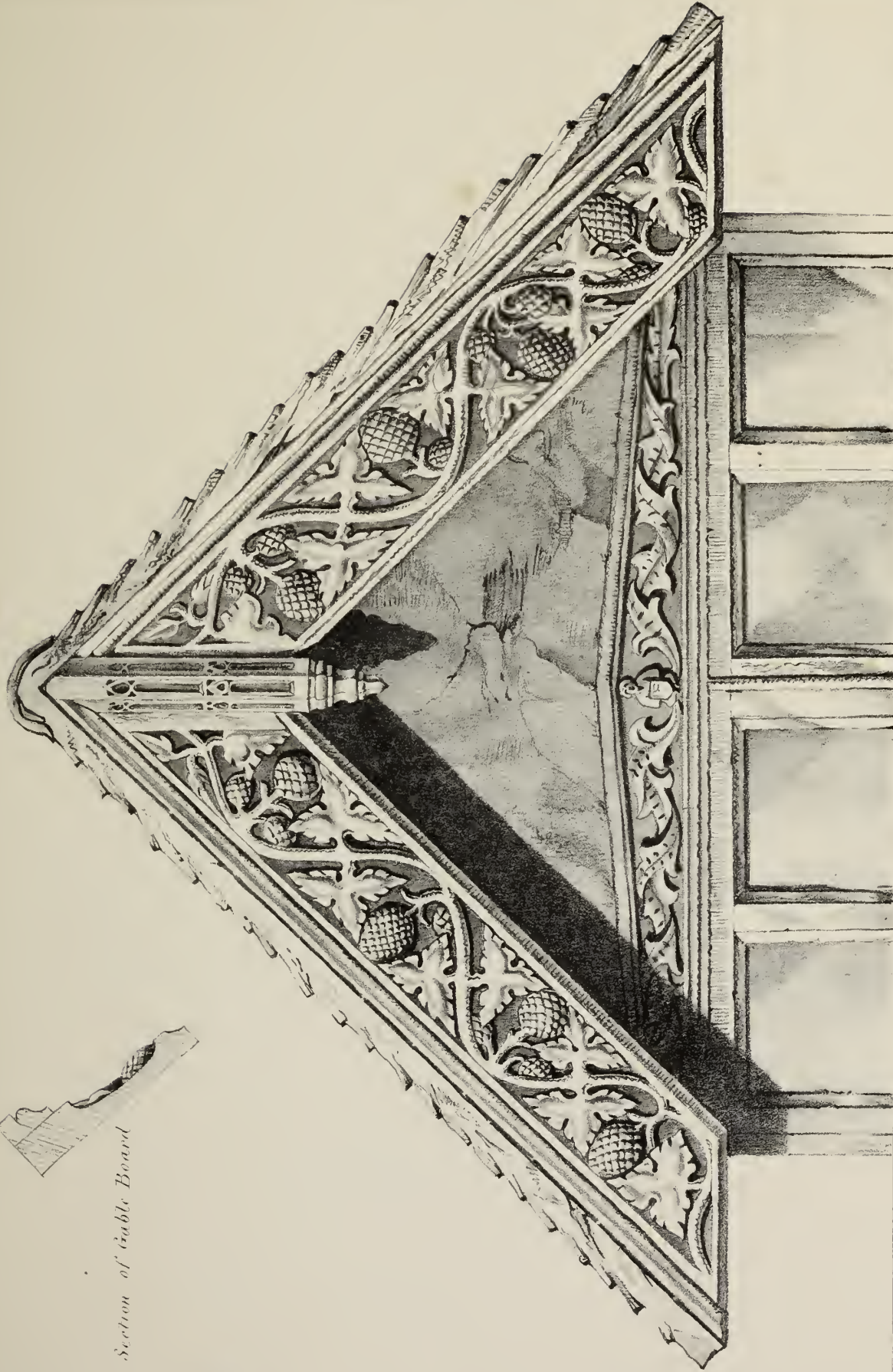
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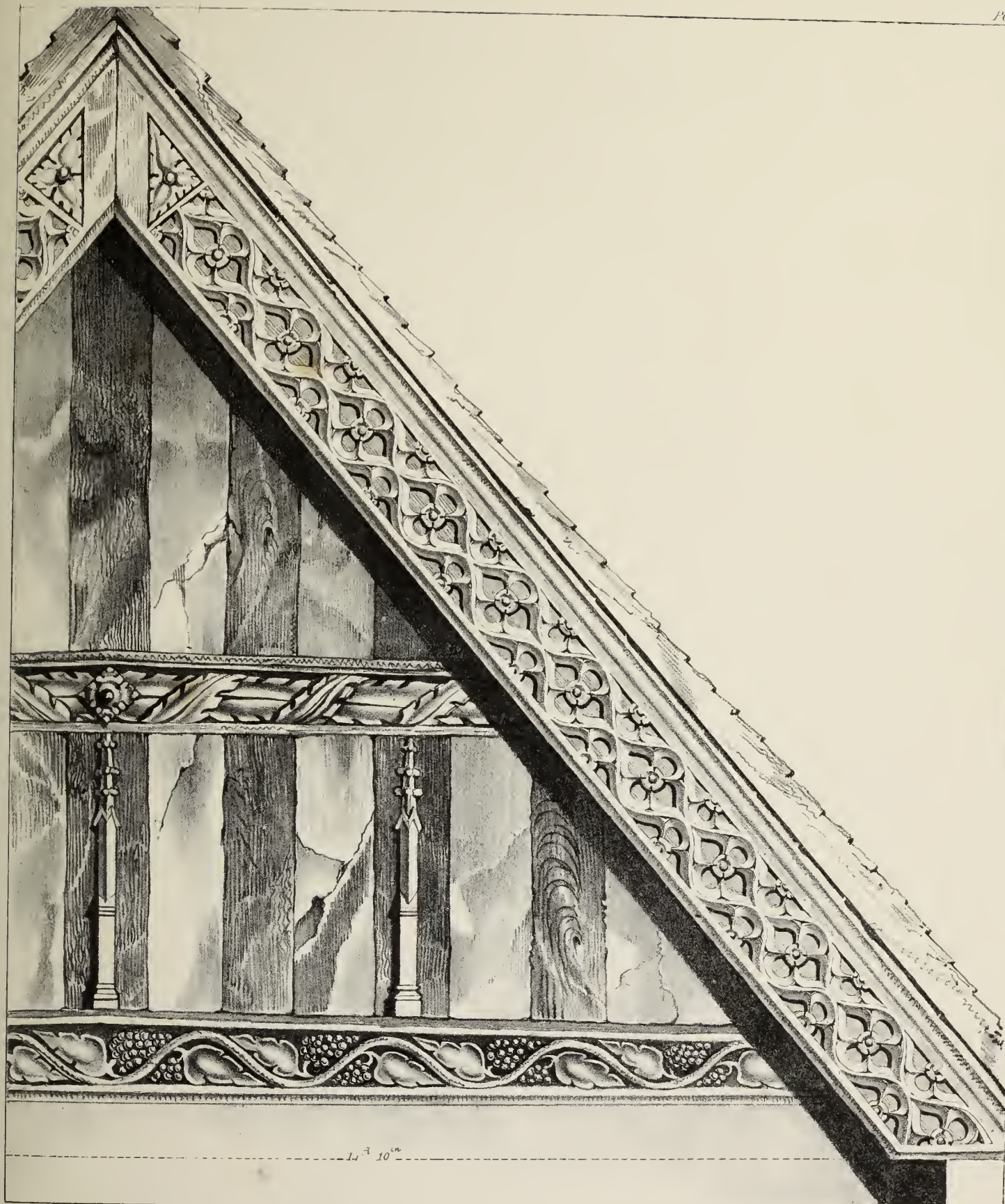


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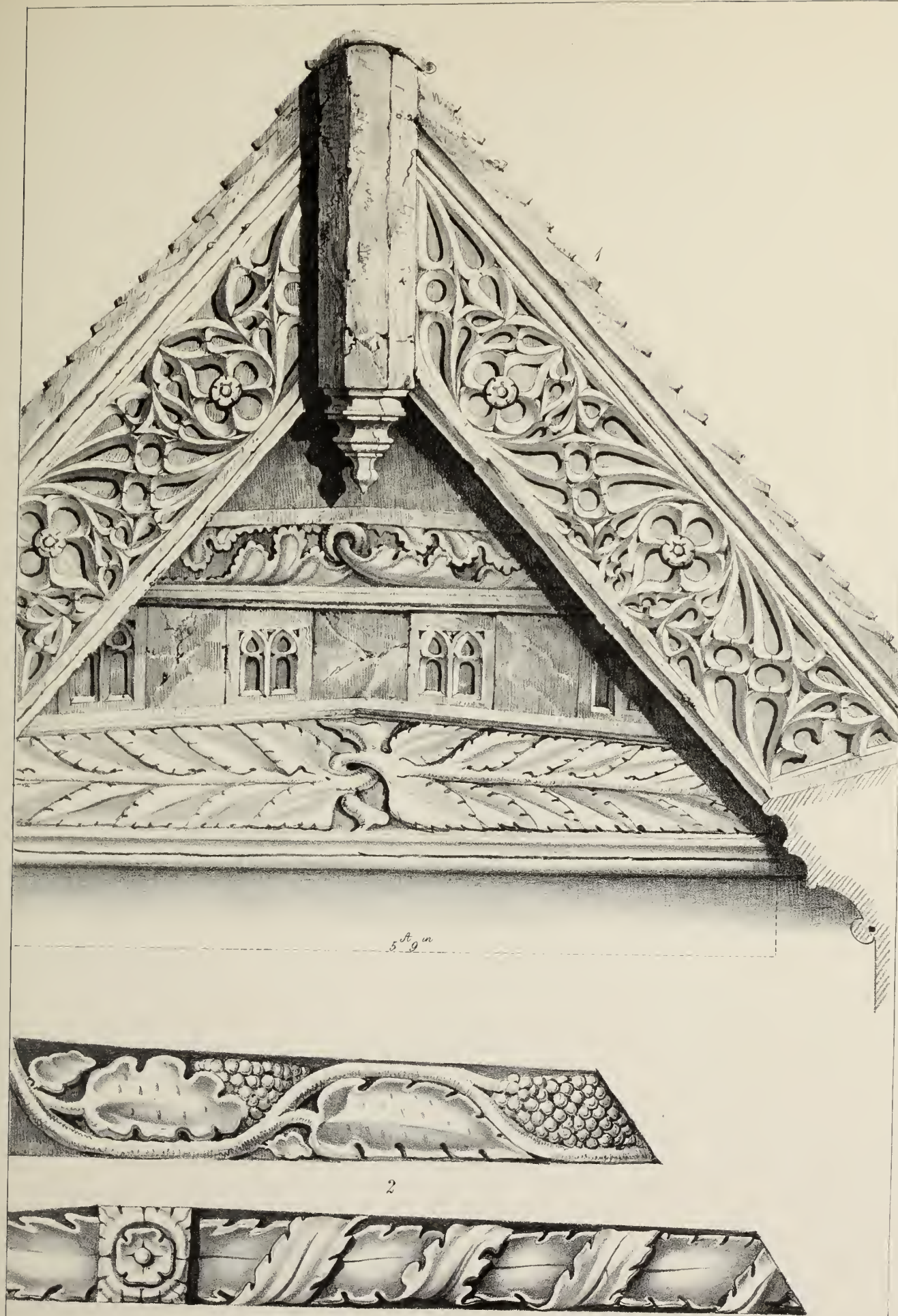


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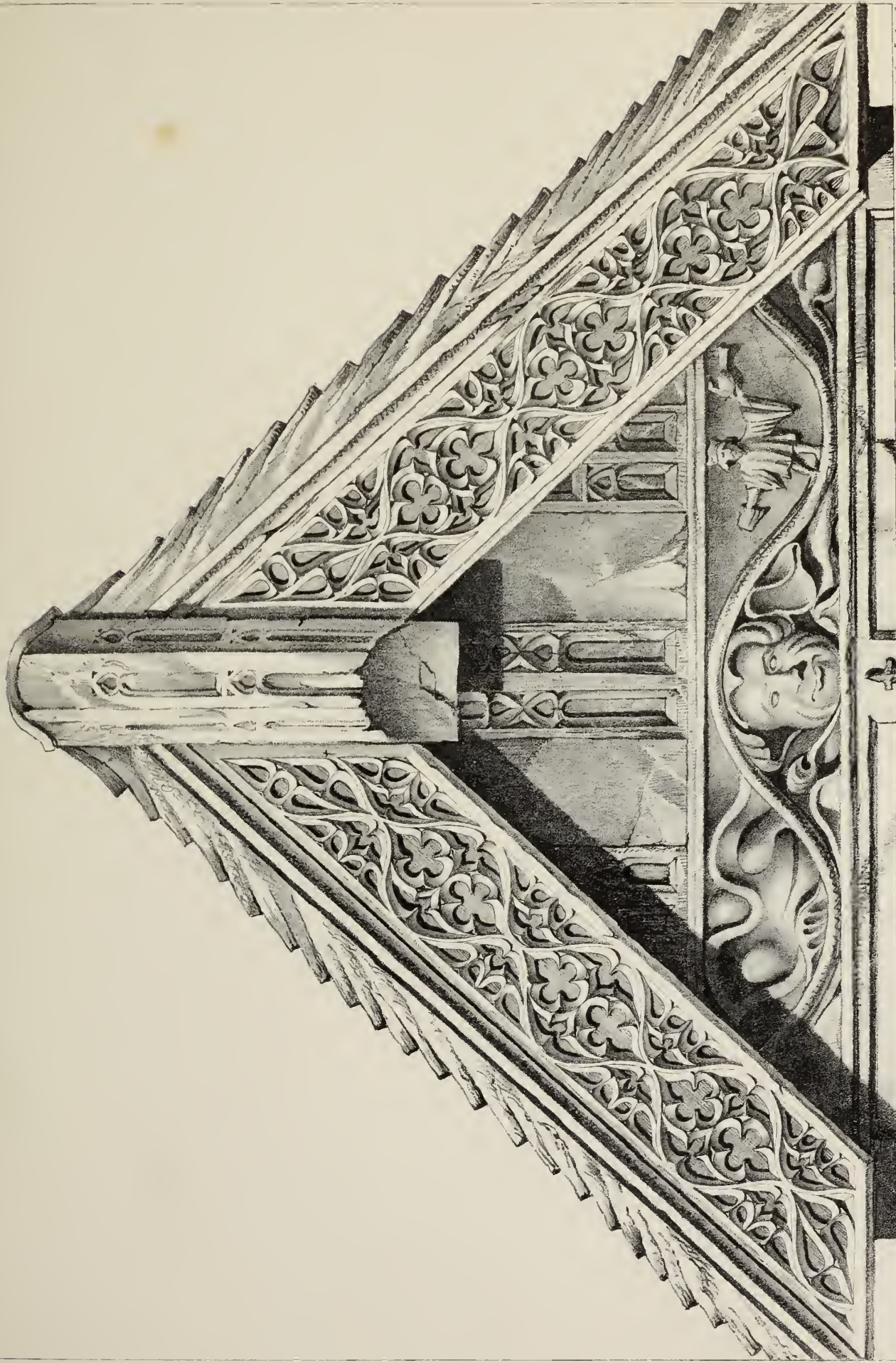


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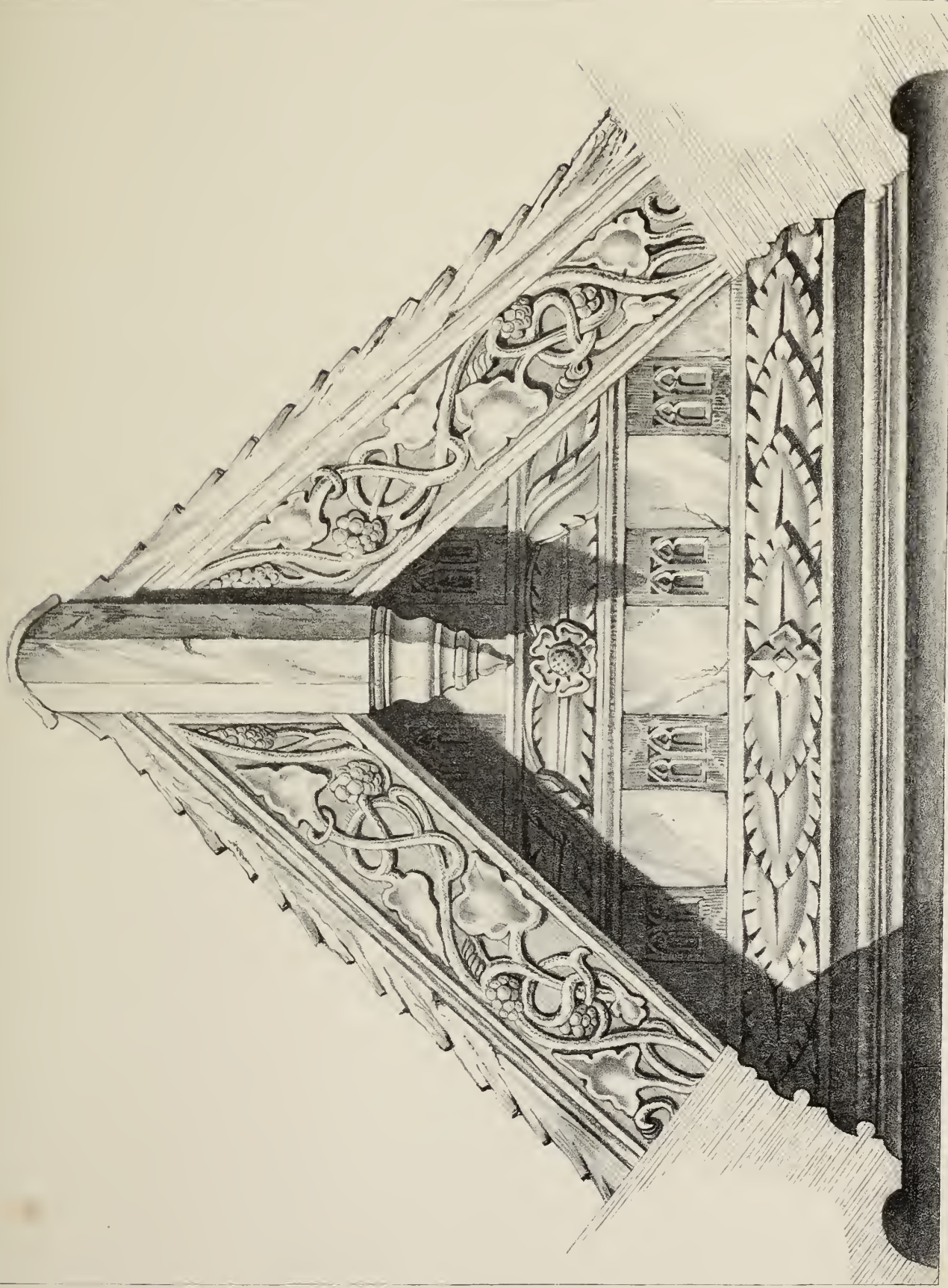
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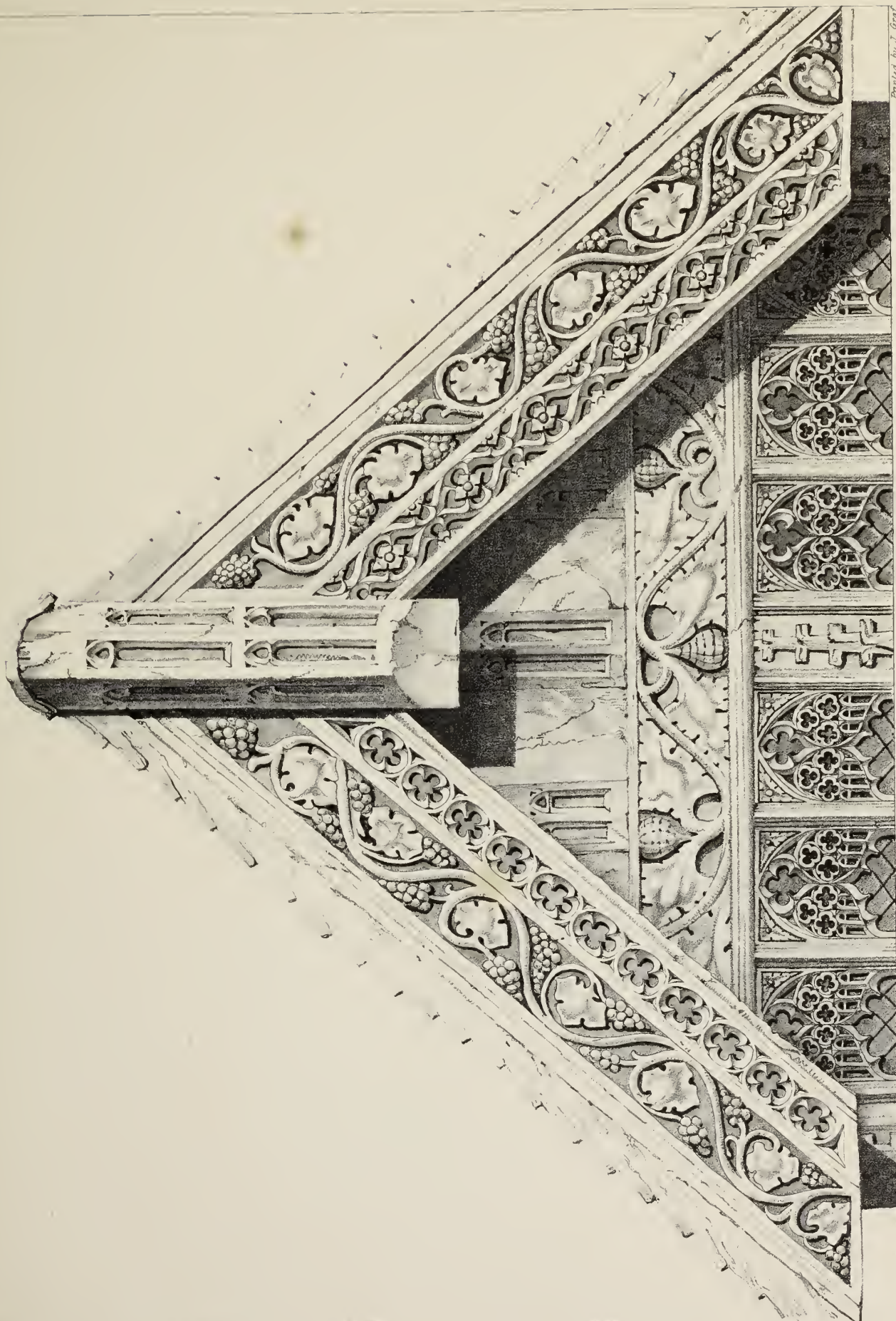
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WINDEN GABILE.
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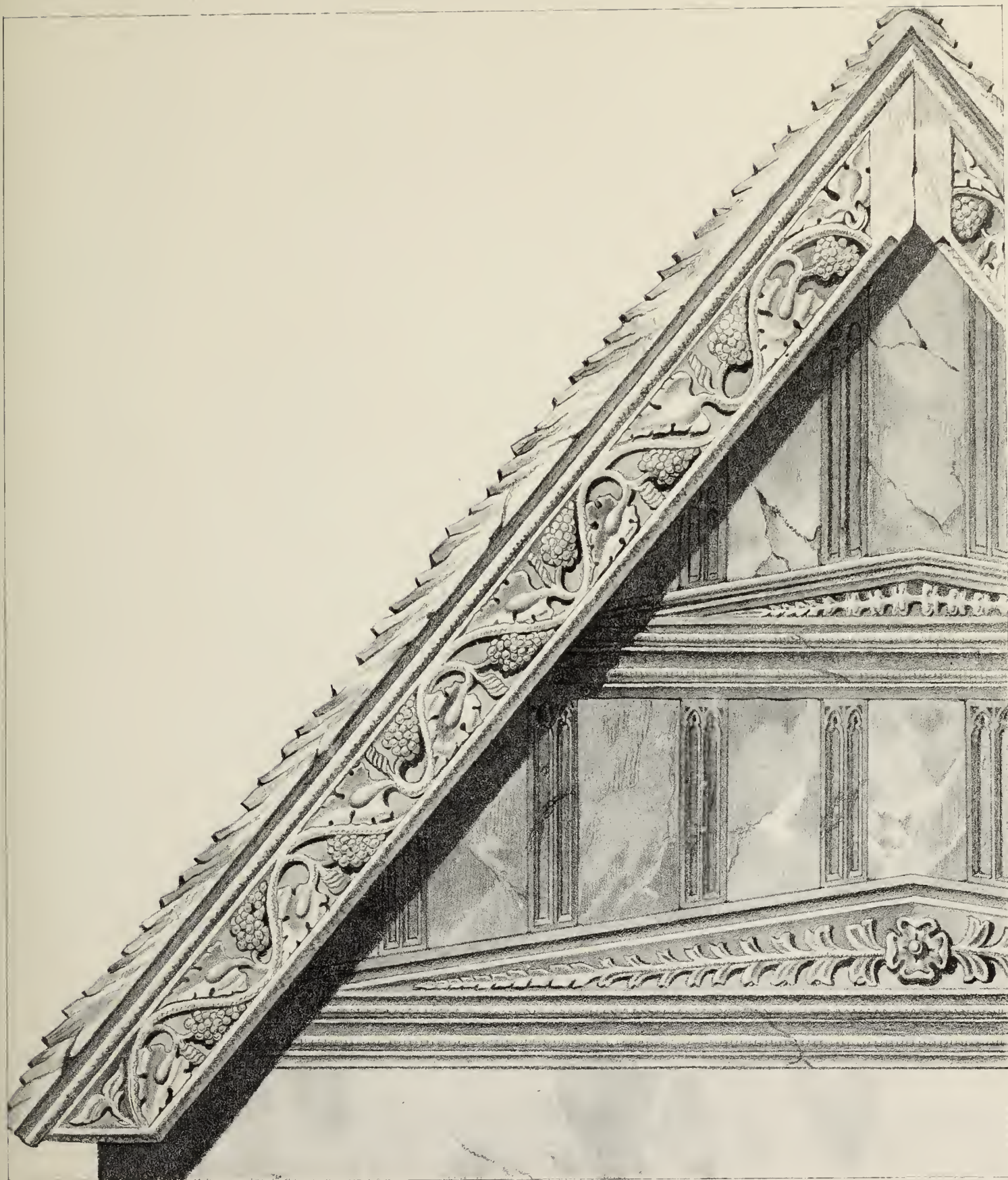


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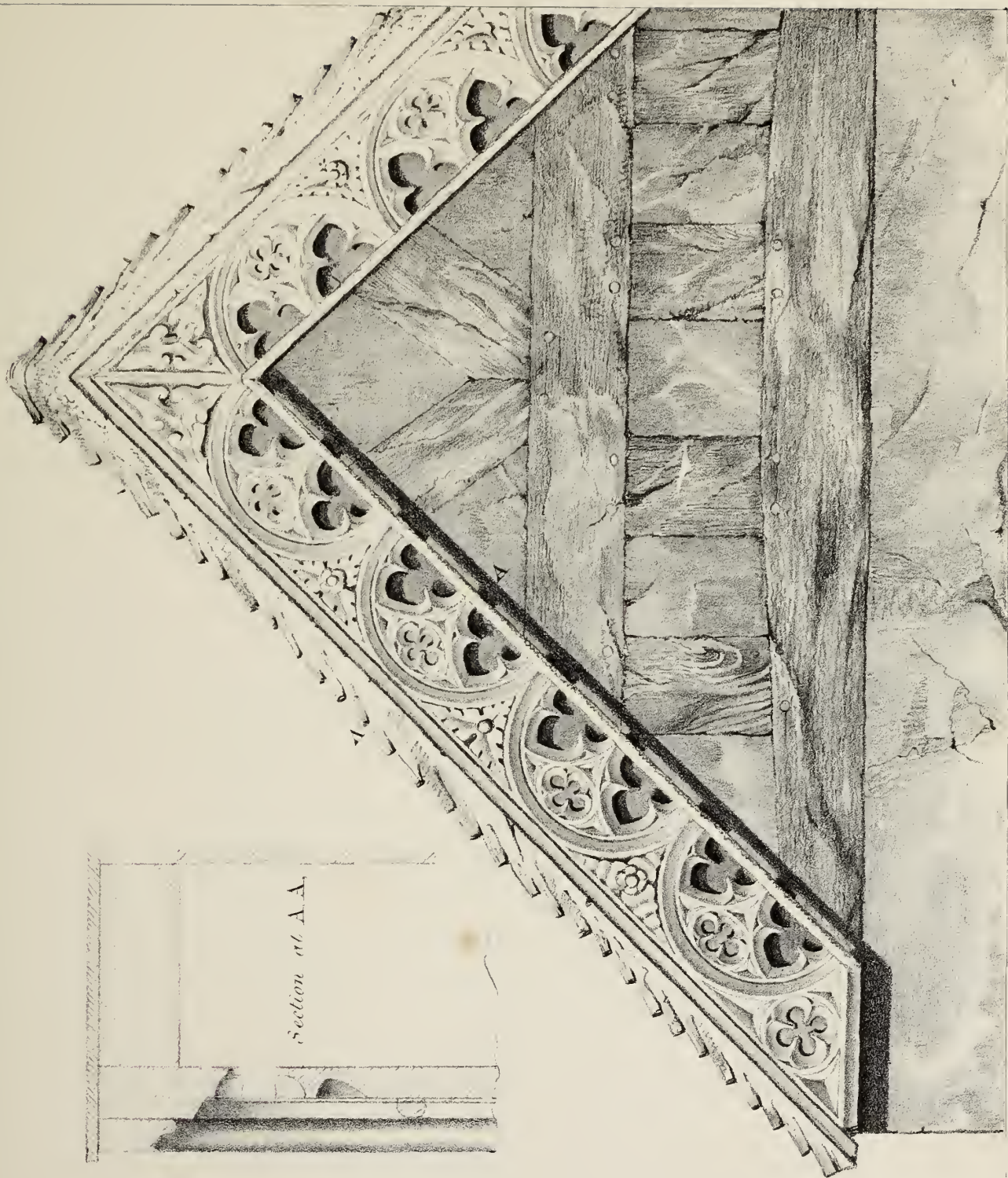
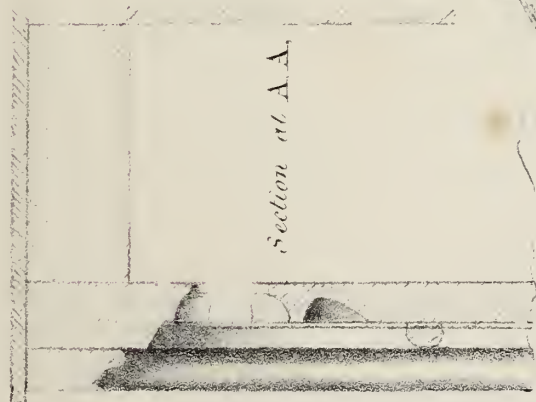
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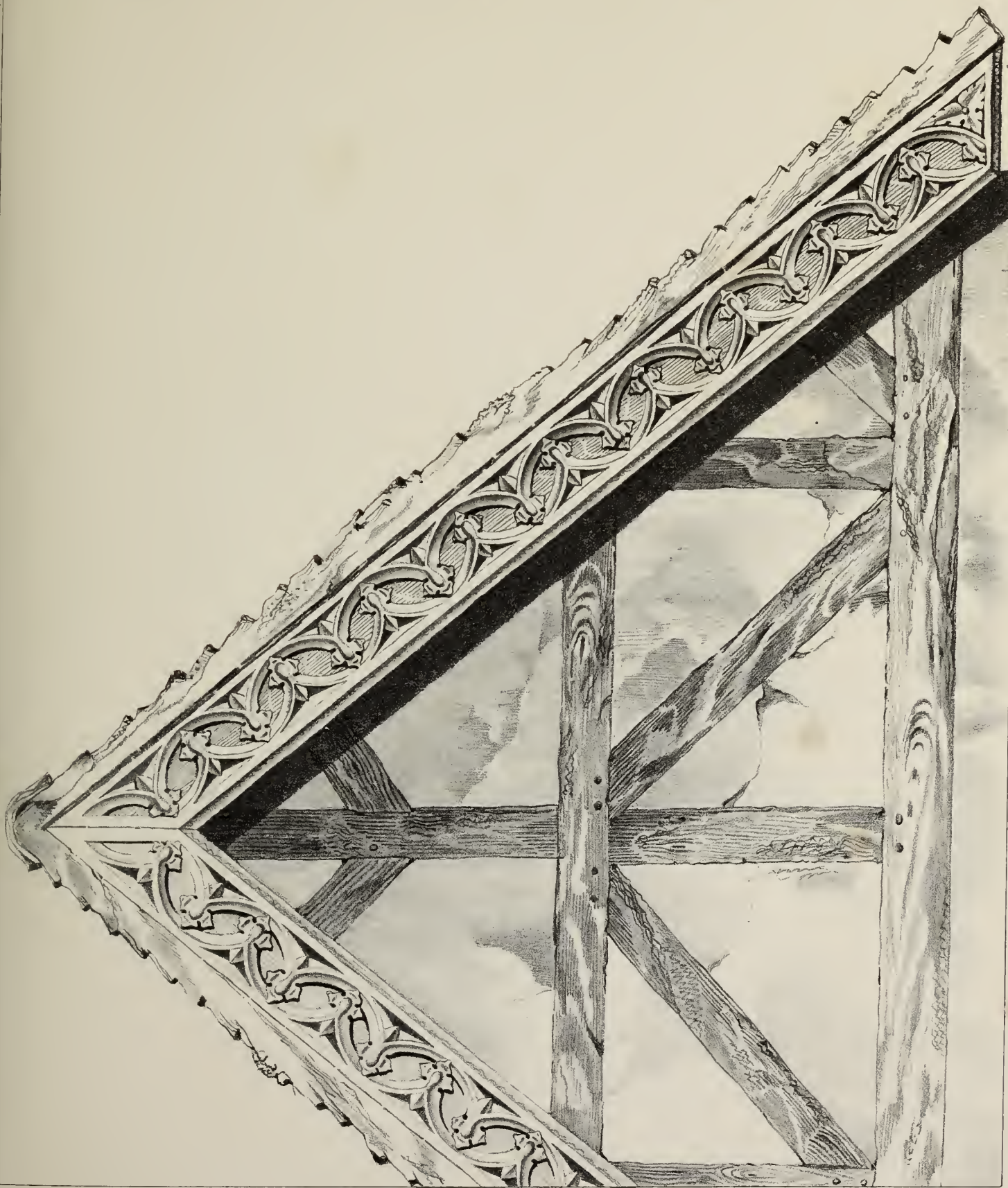


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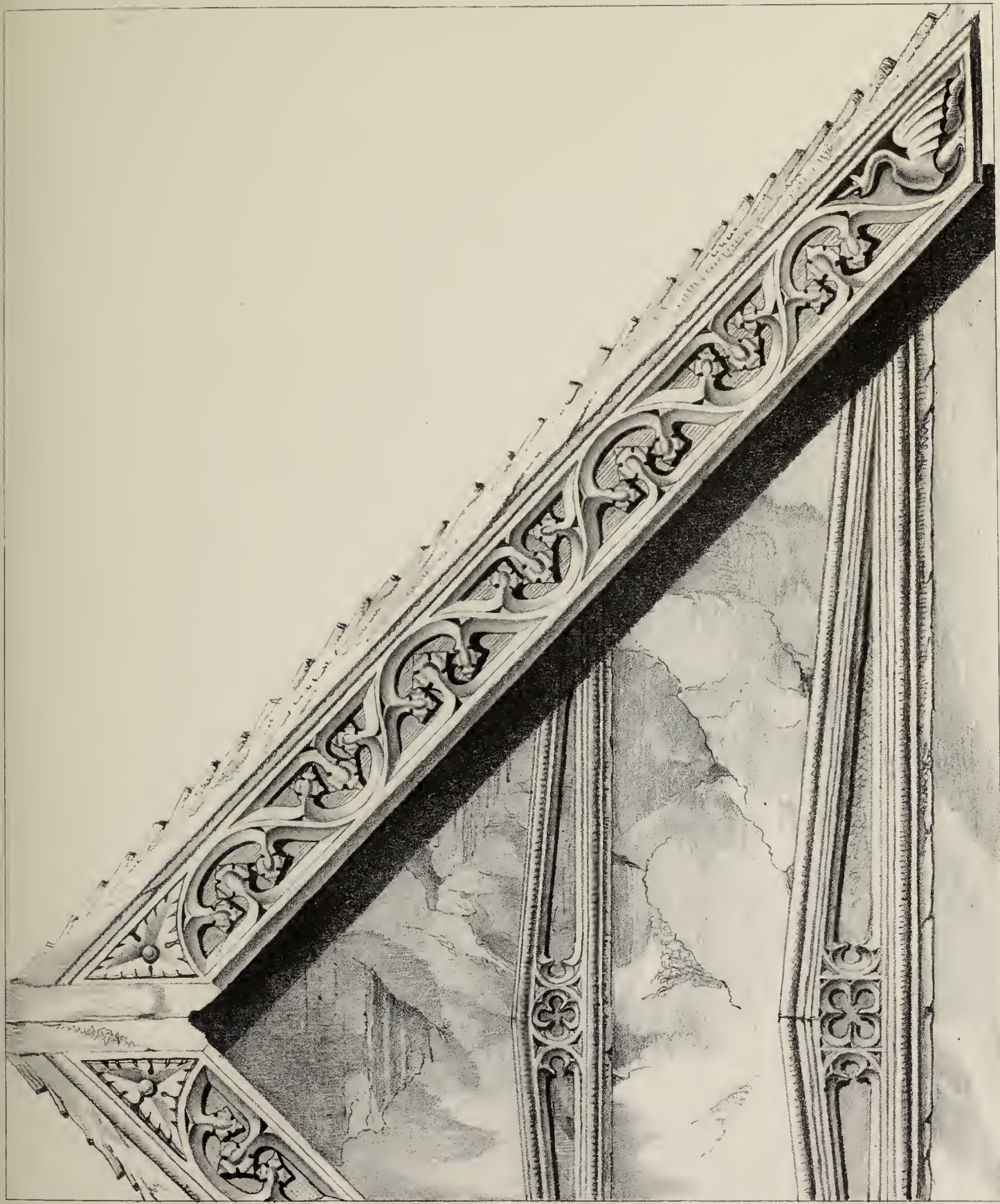
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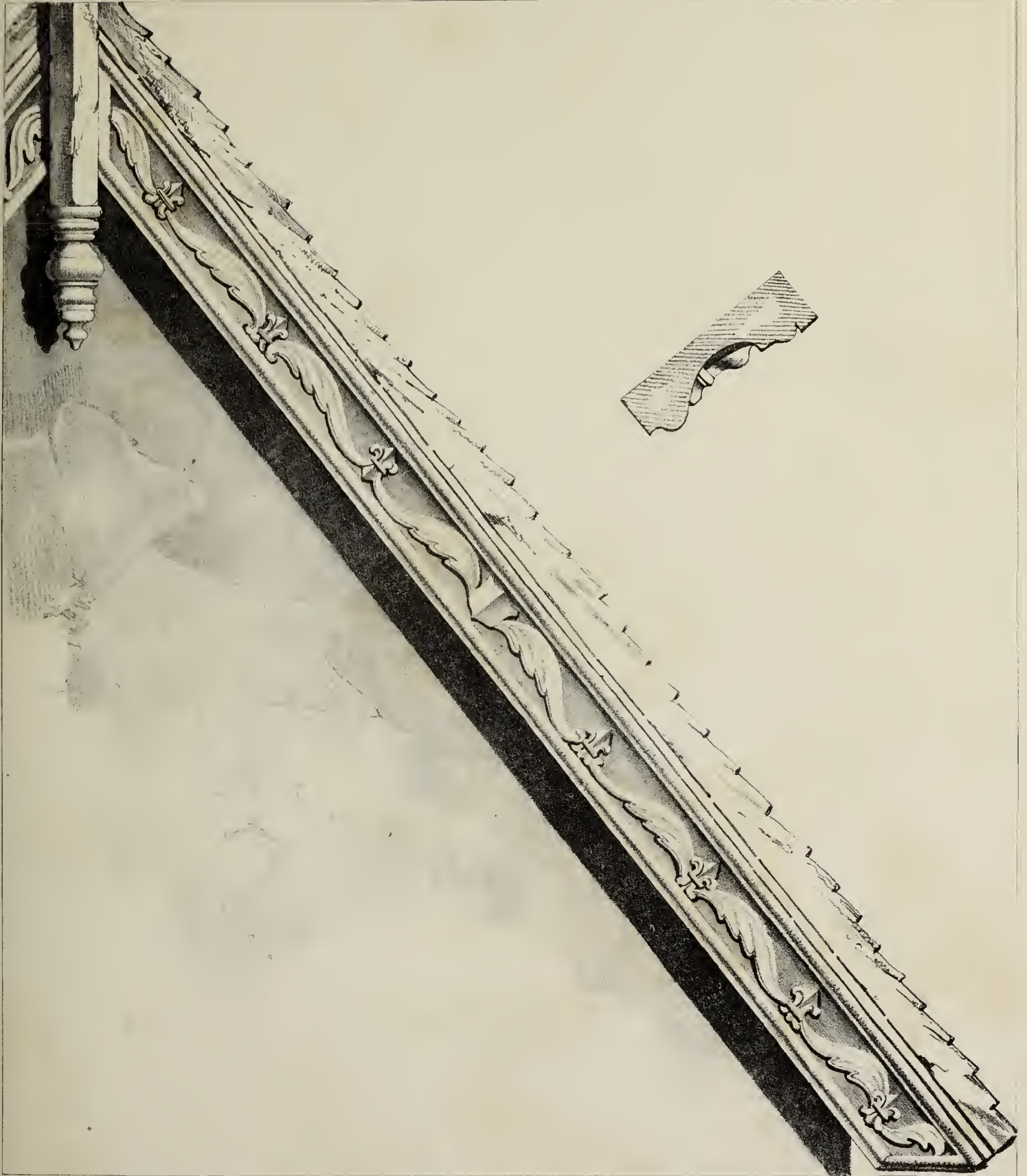
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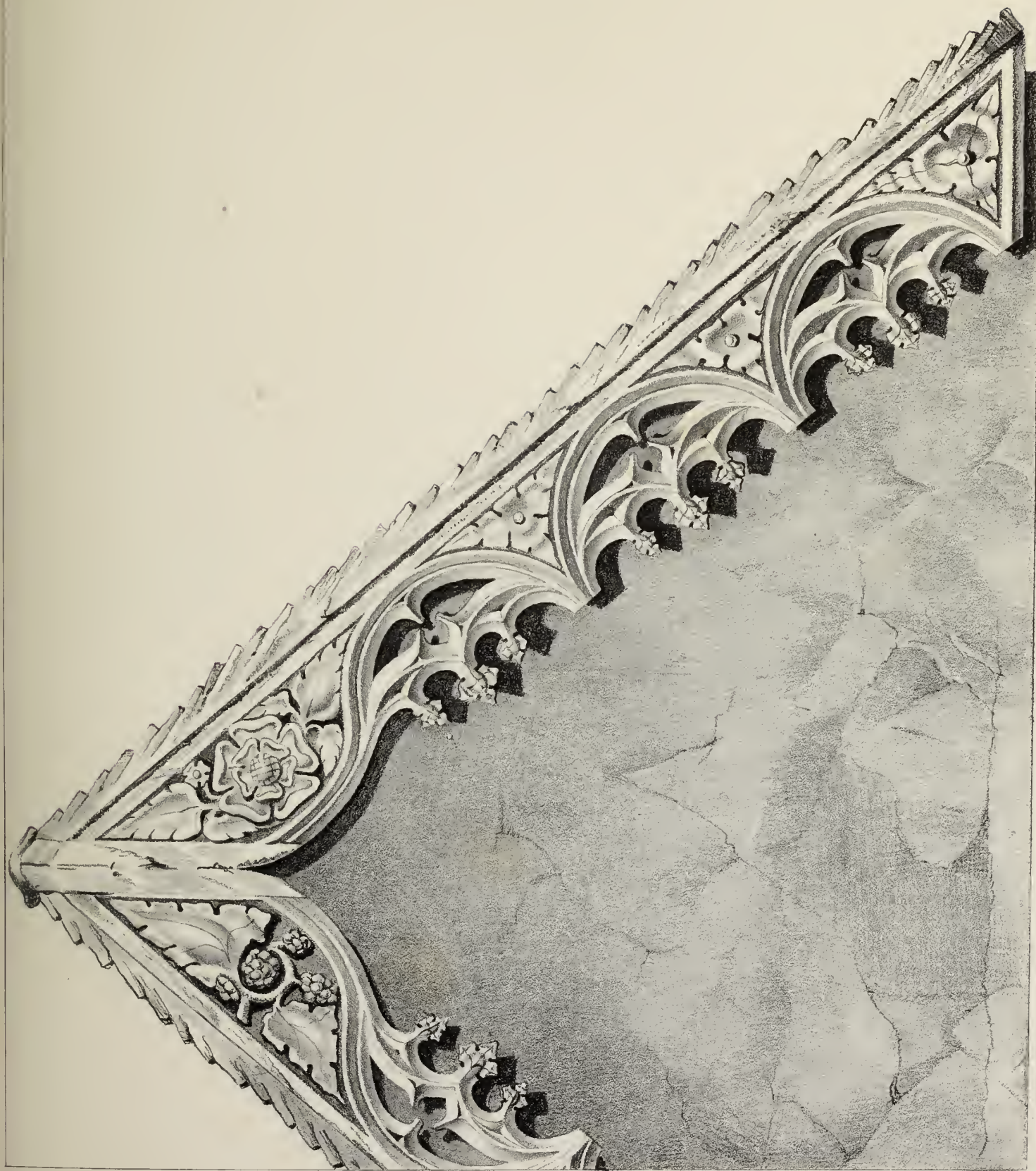
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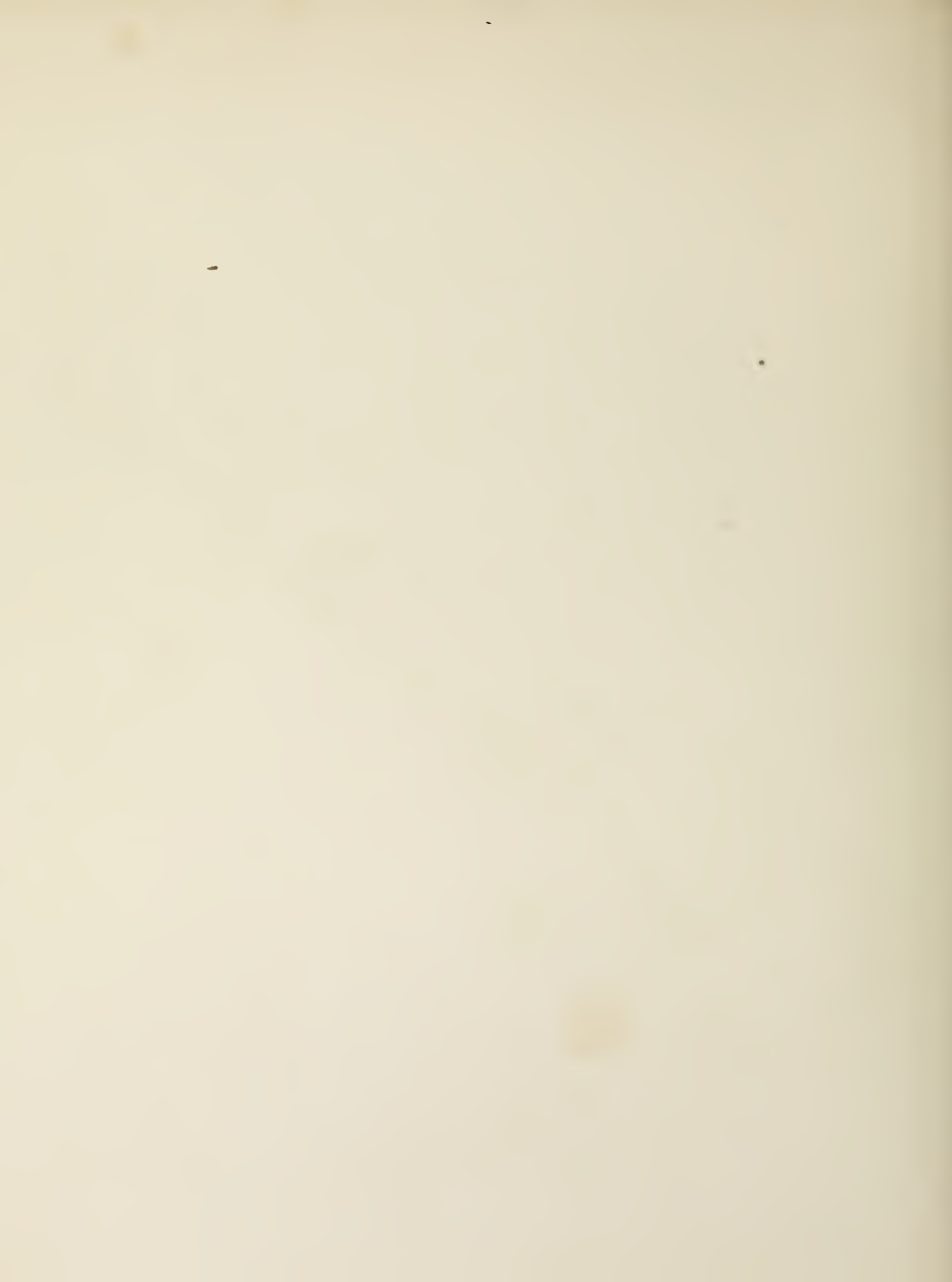


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FROM BAYLEY LANE, COVENTRY

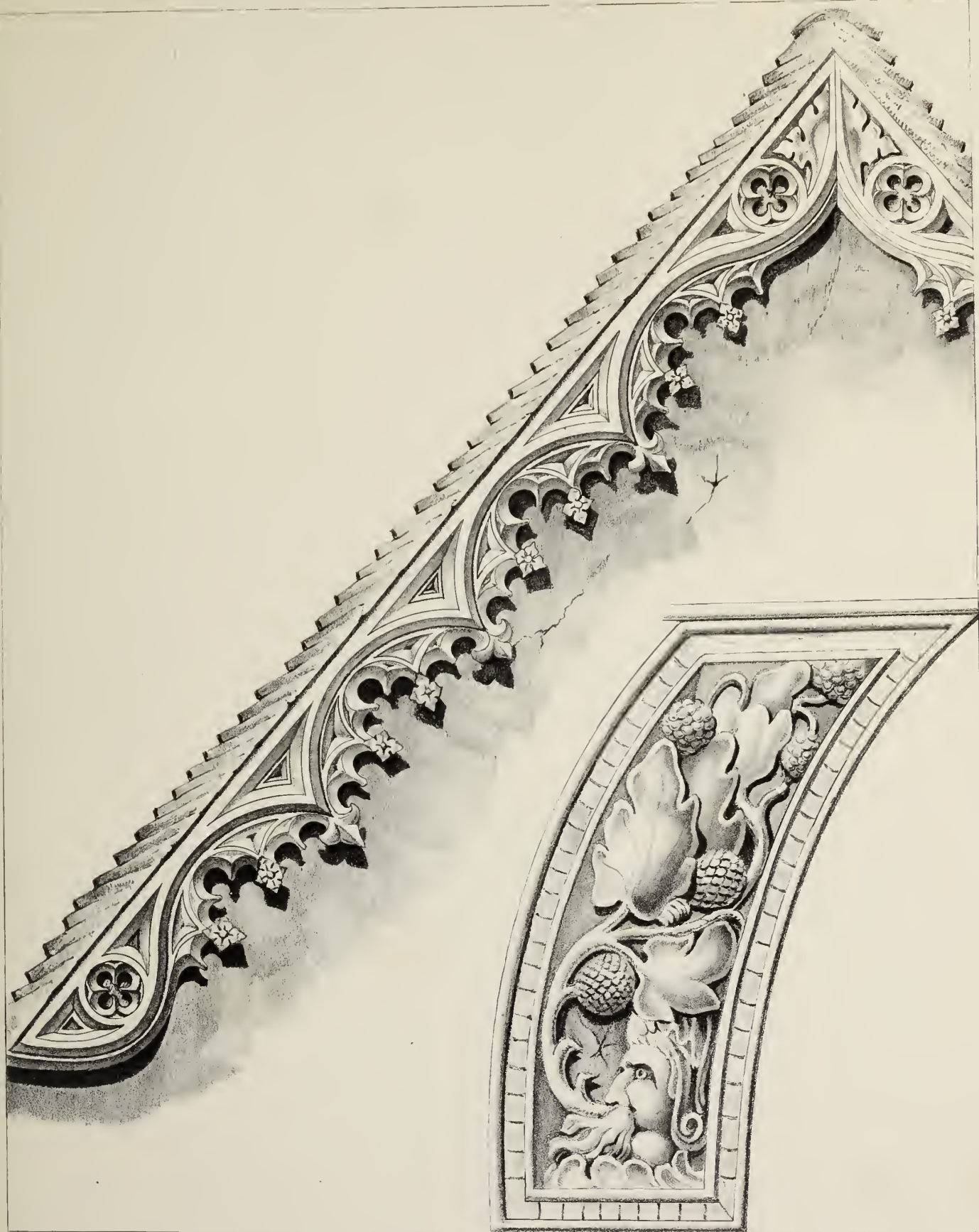
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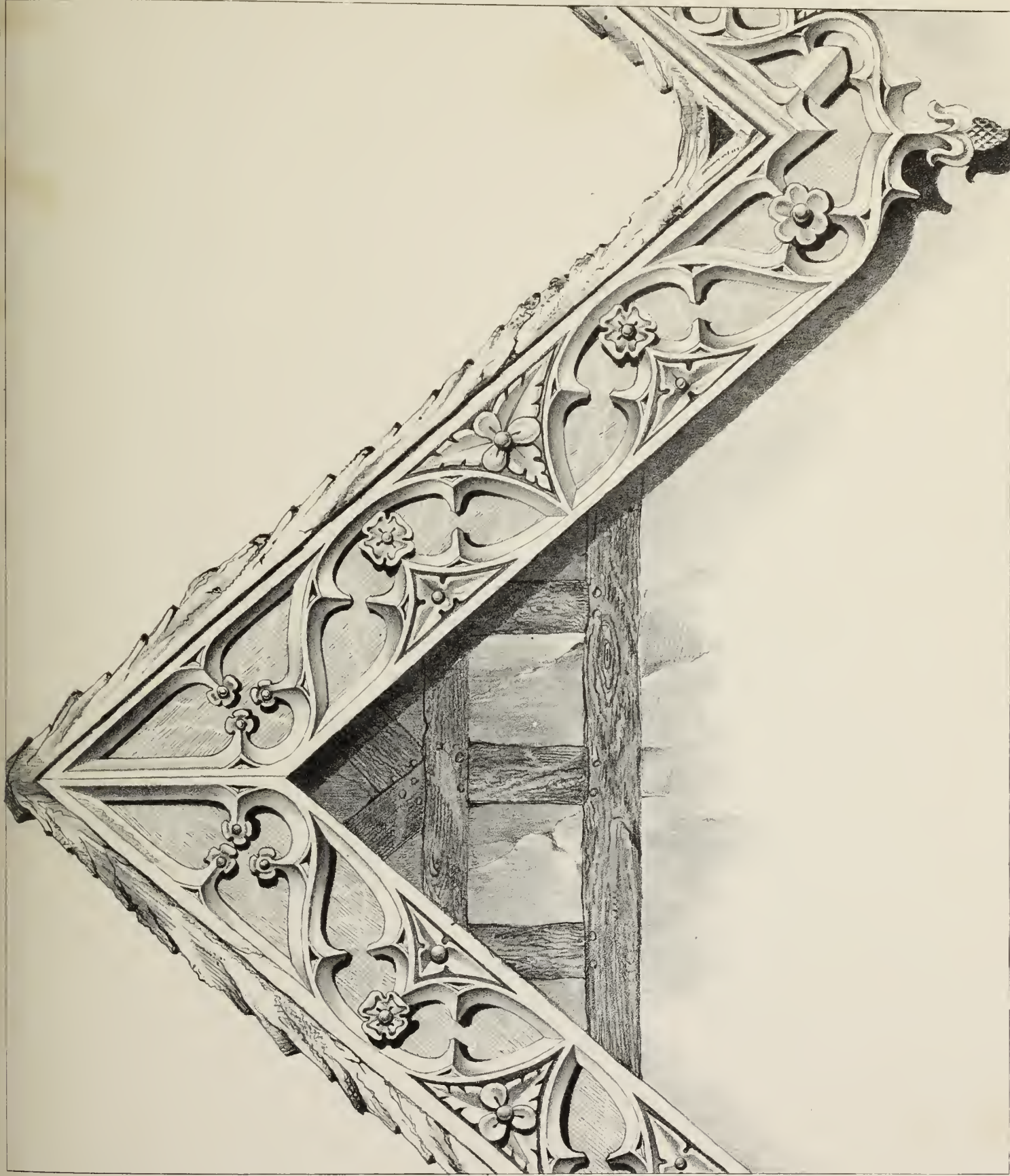


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Nº 1. WOODEN GABLE FROM HAY LANE.

Nº 2. WOODEN BRACKET FROM THE CORNER HOUSE, BAYLEY LANE COVENTRY.

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WOODEN GABLE.

FROM BUTCHERS ROW, COVENTRY

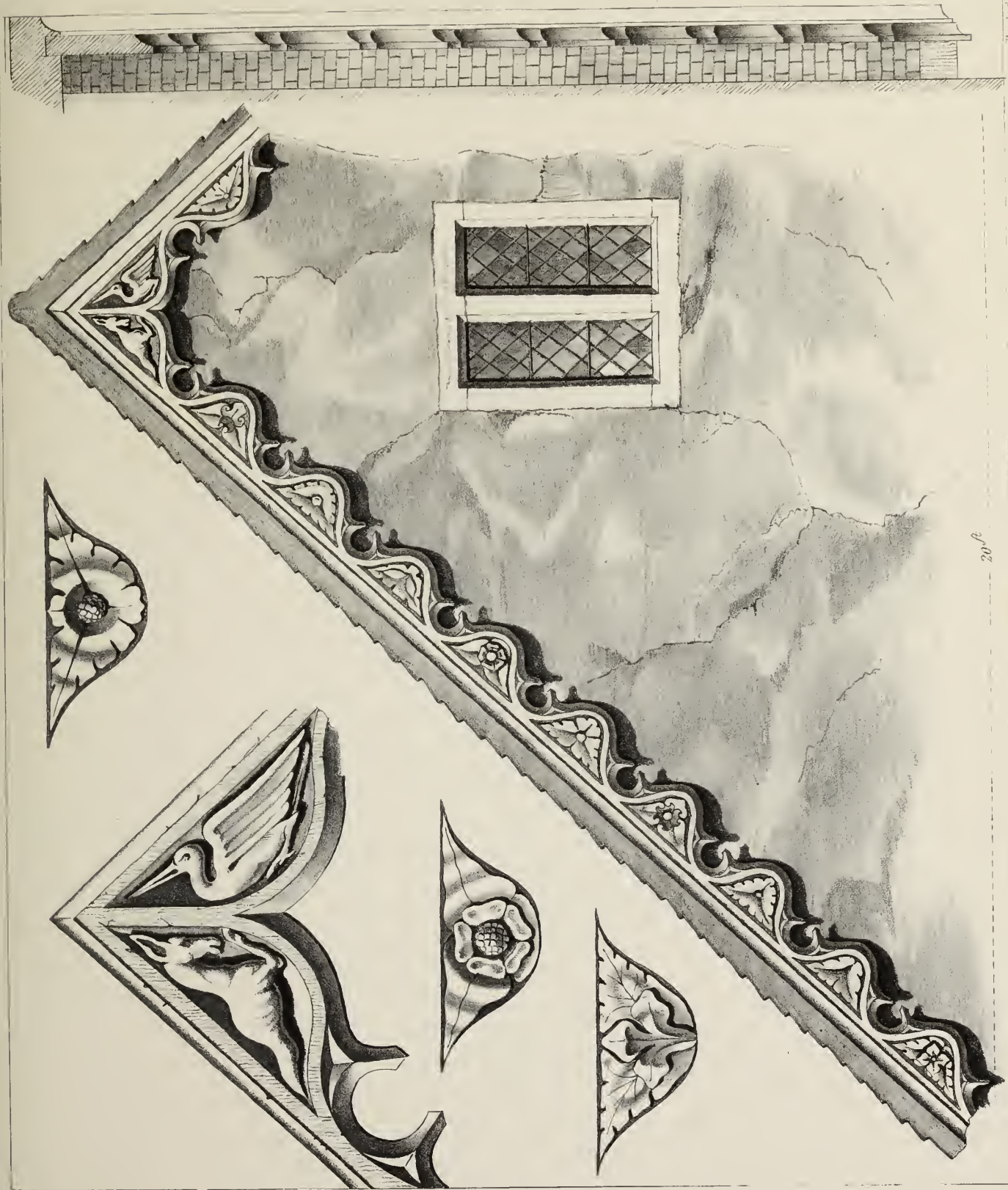
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WOODEN GABLE
FROM LEICESTER'S HOSPITAL WARWICK
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Section through the Centre

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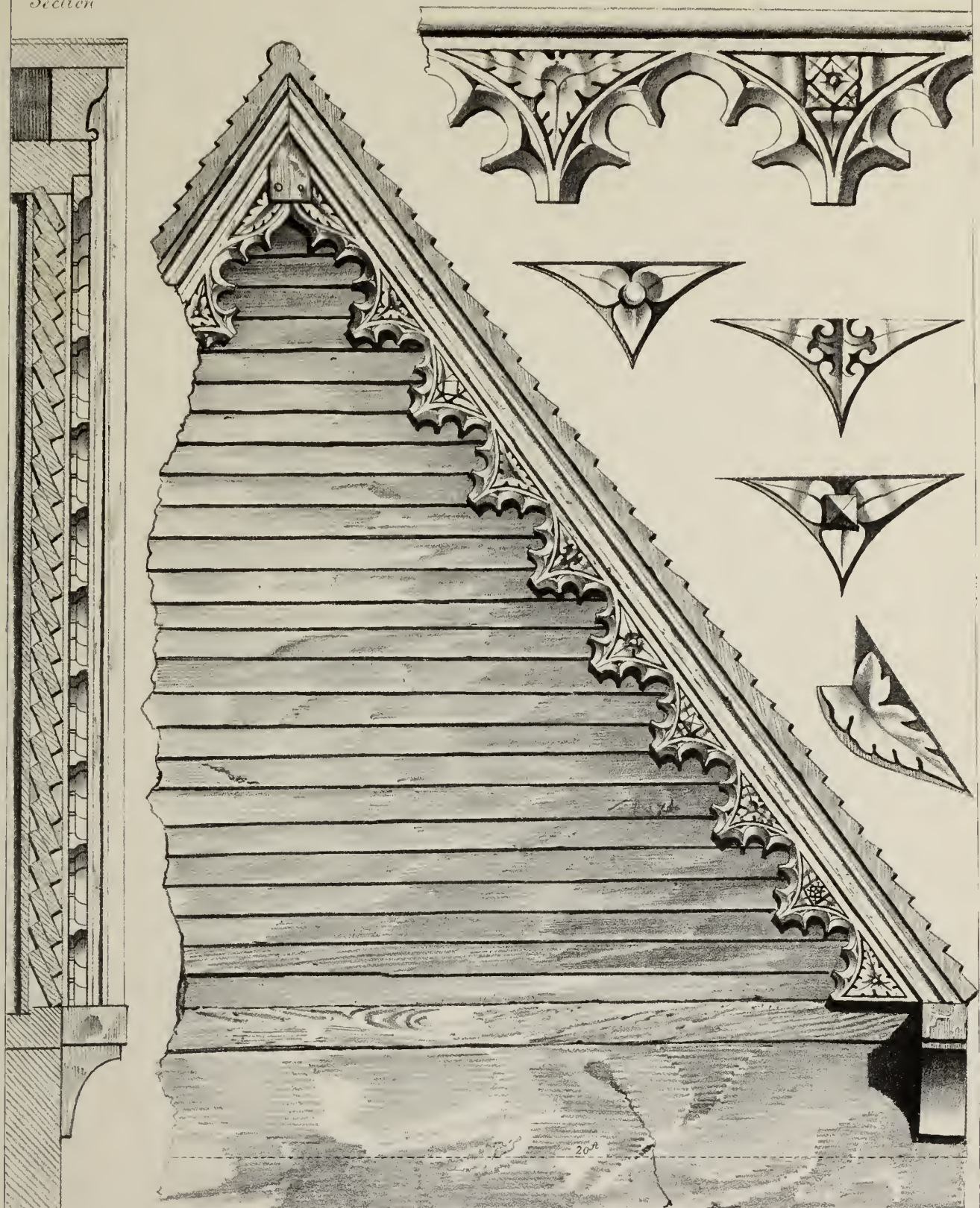
WOODEN GABLE

NEW BRENTFORD, MIDDLESEX

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Section



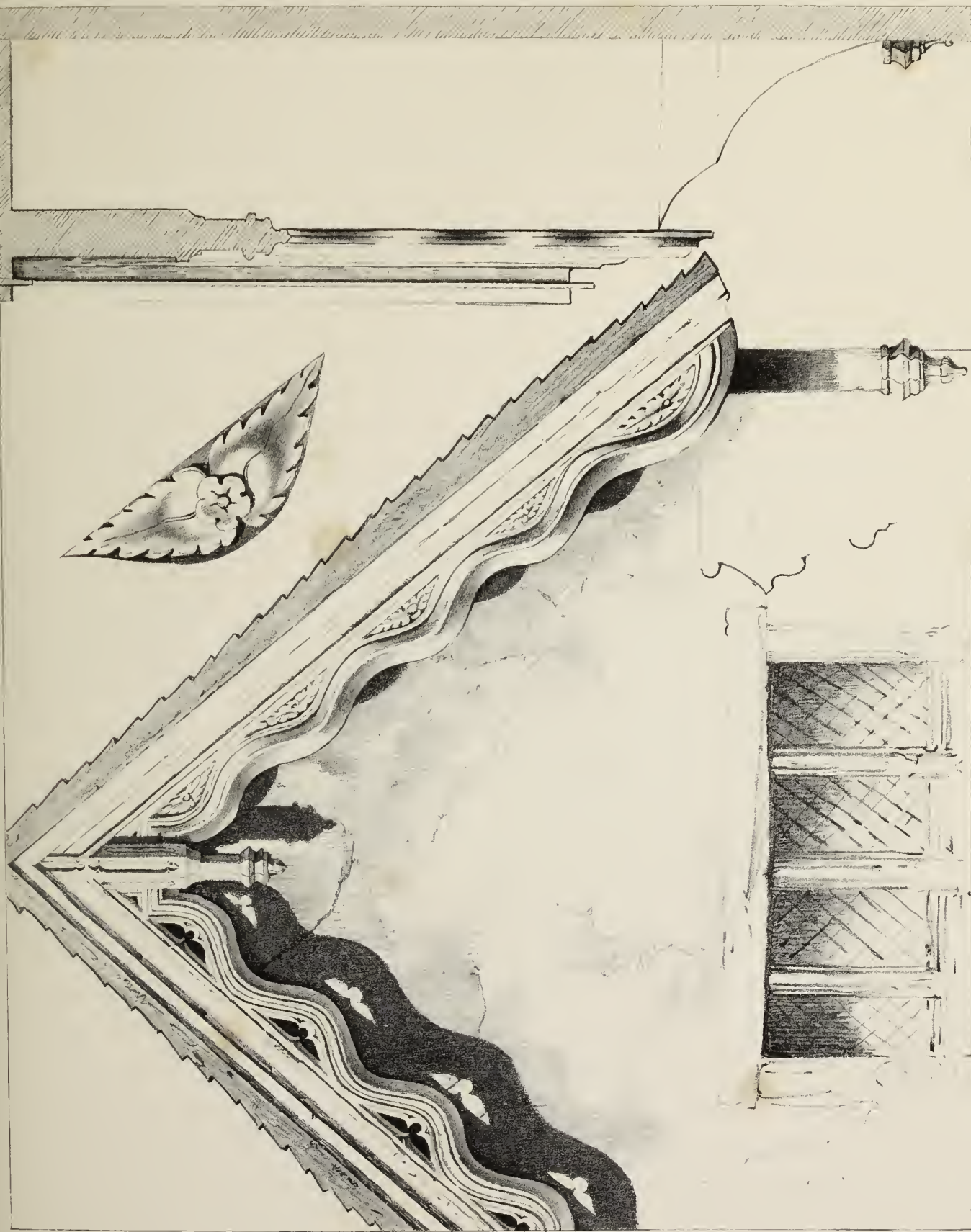
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HIGH STREET, ROCHESTER

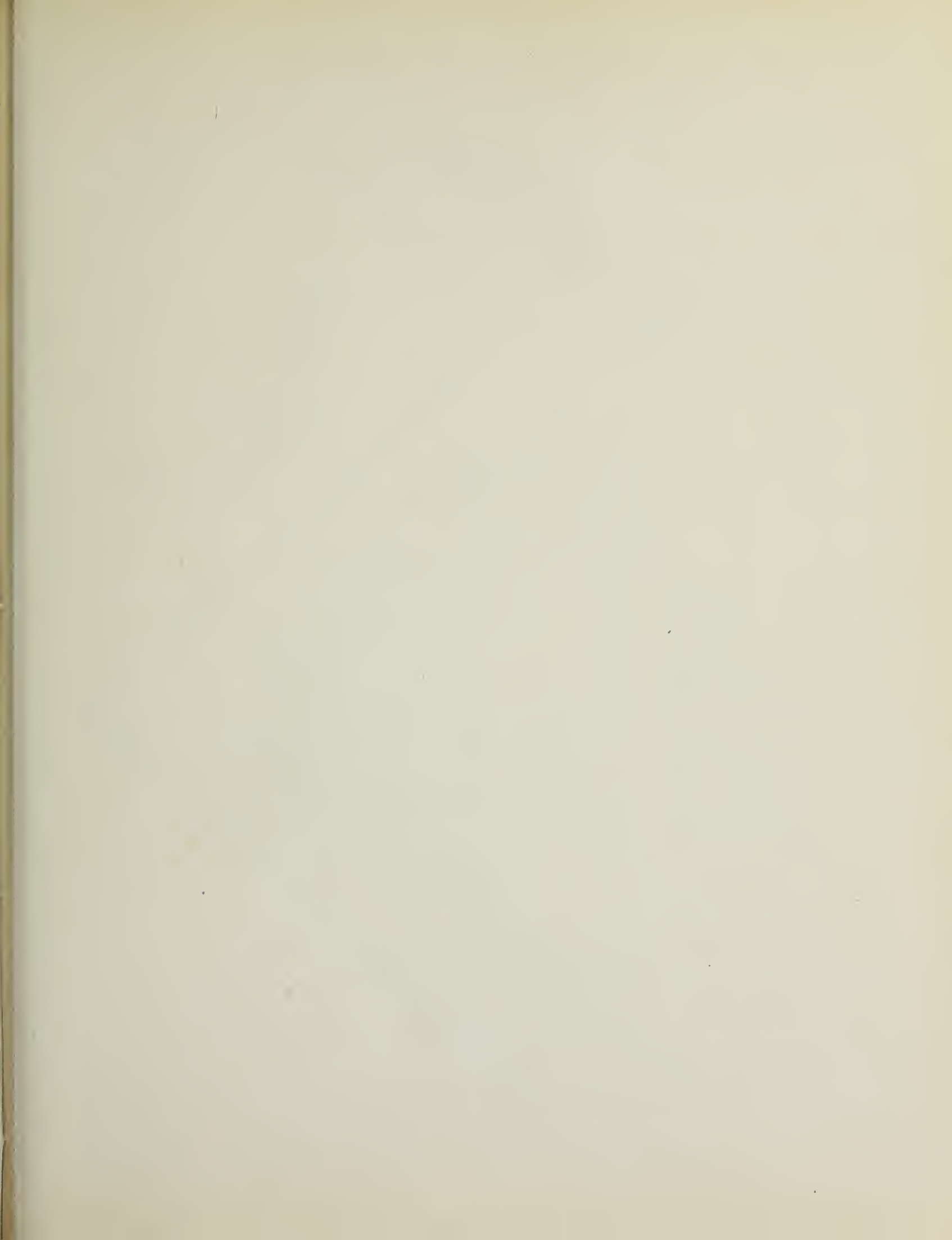
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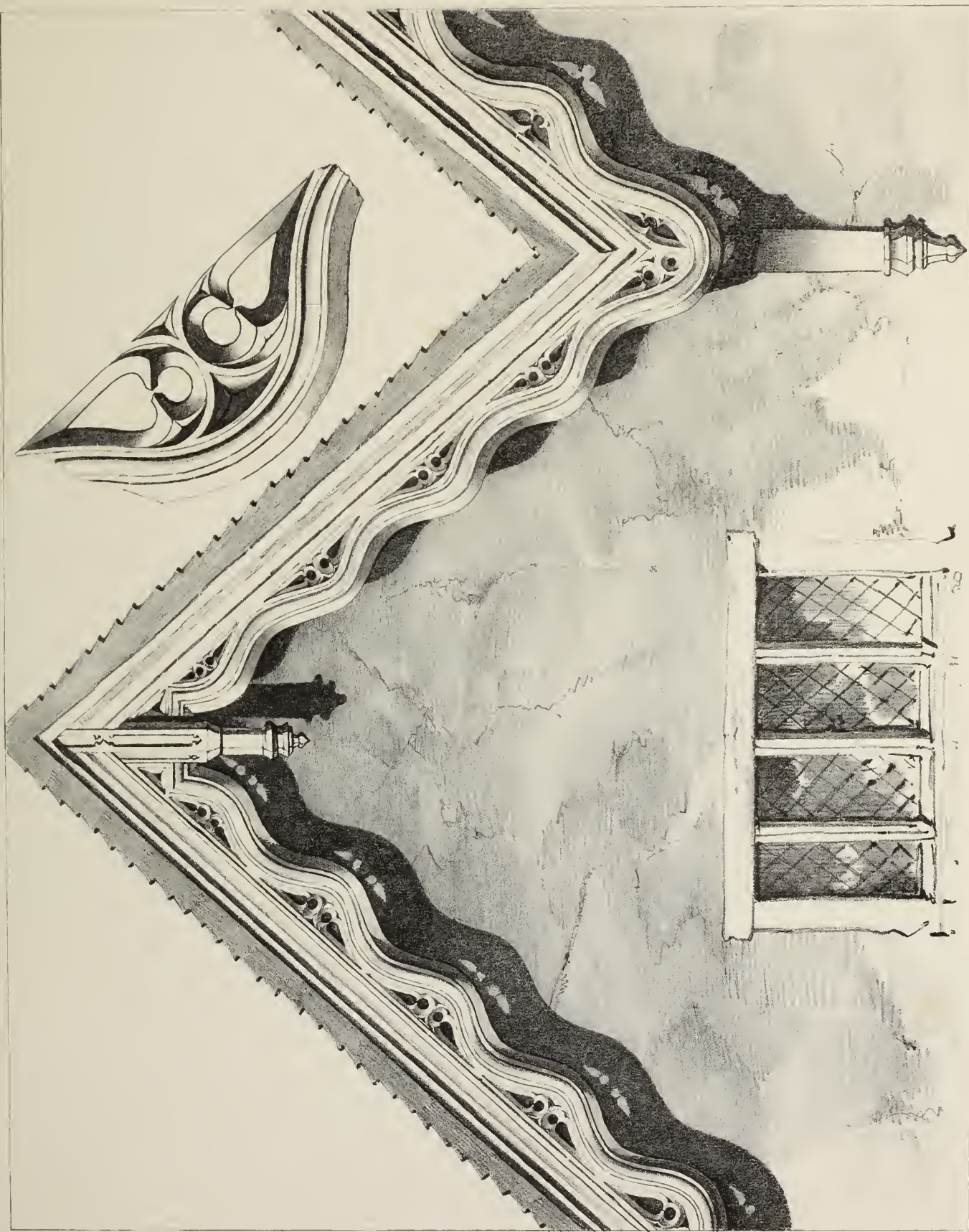




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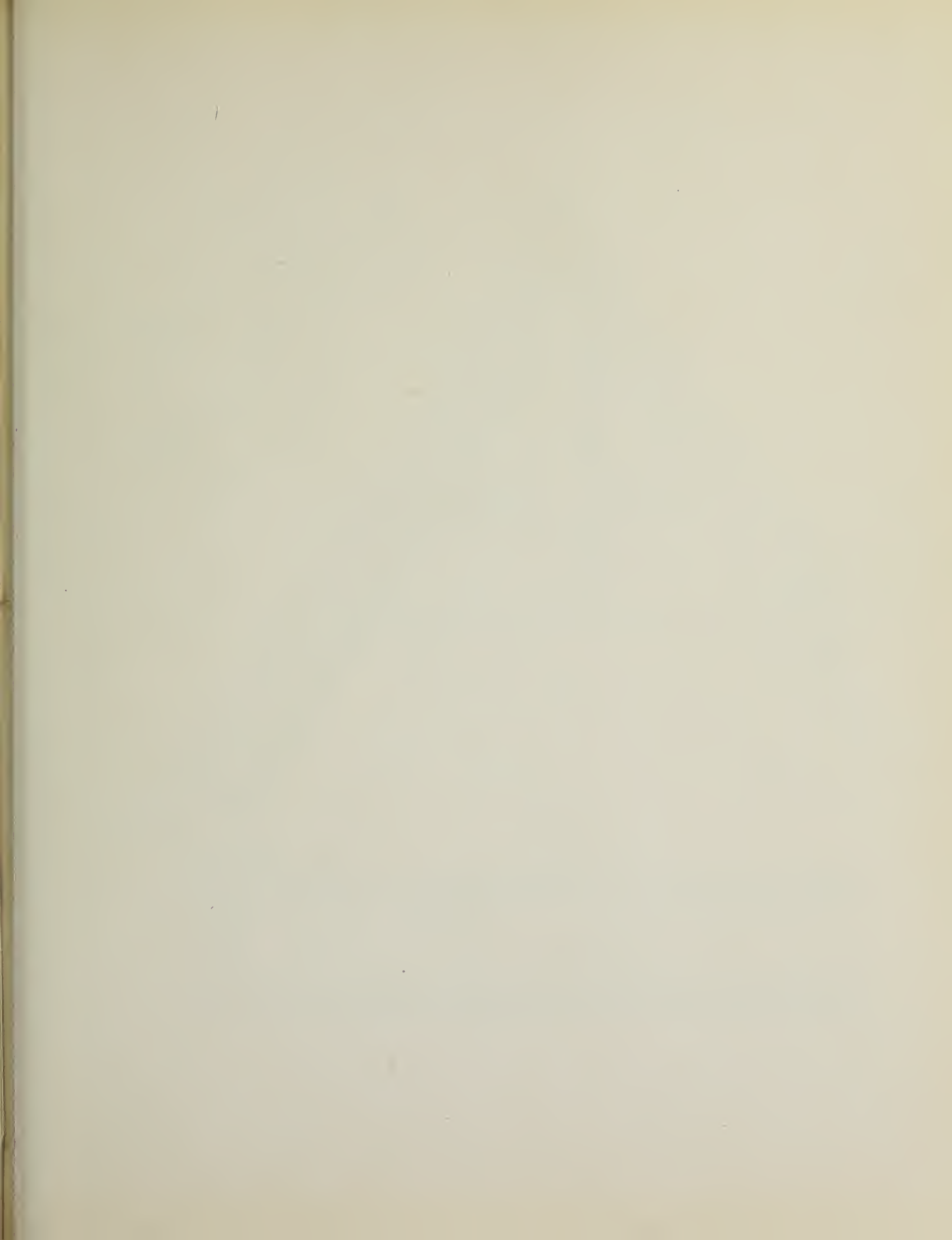


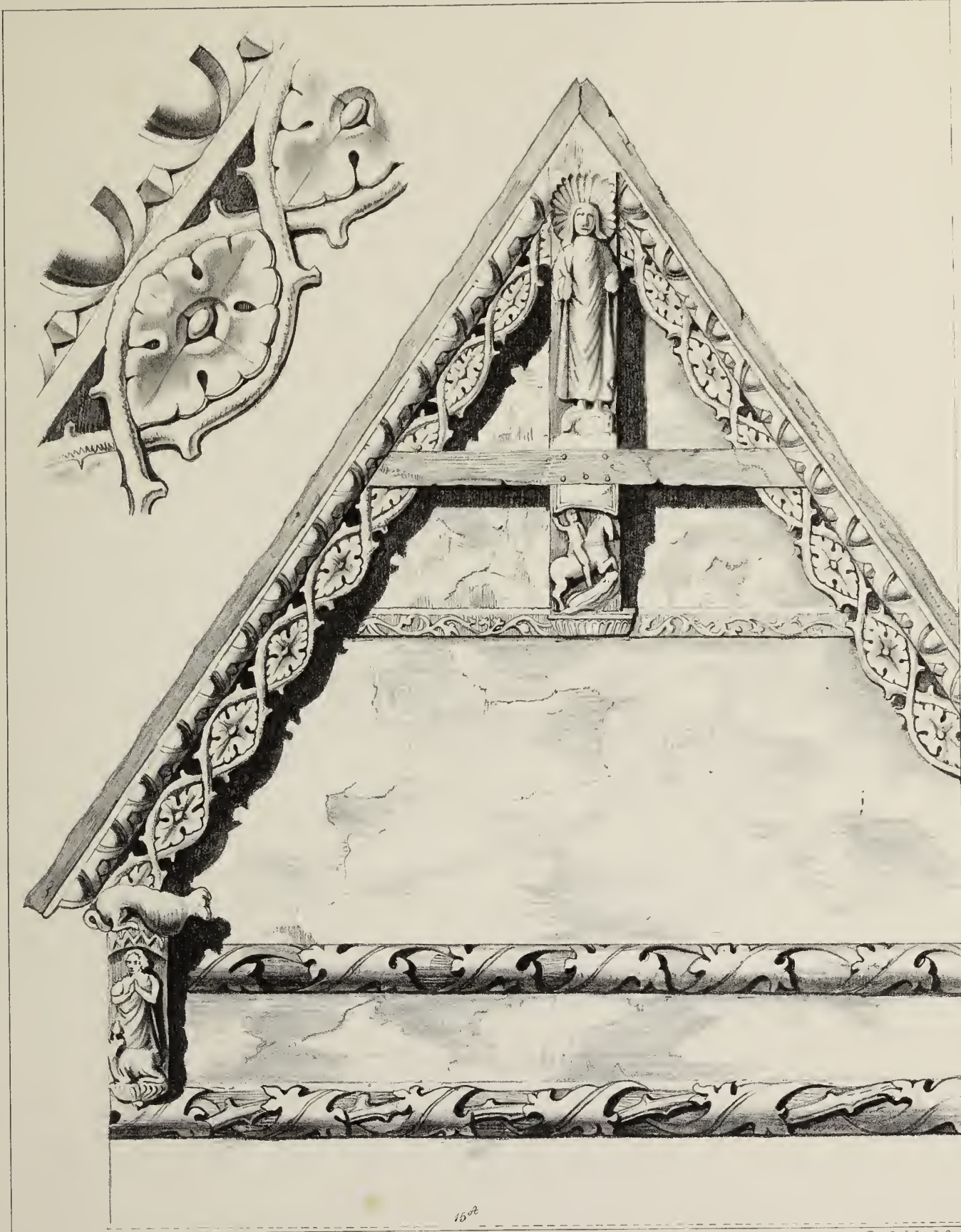


THE GARDEN OF ELTHAM PALACE.

ELTHAM PALACE

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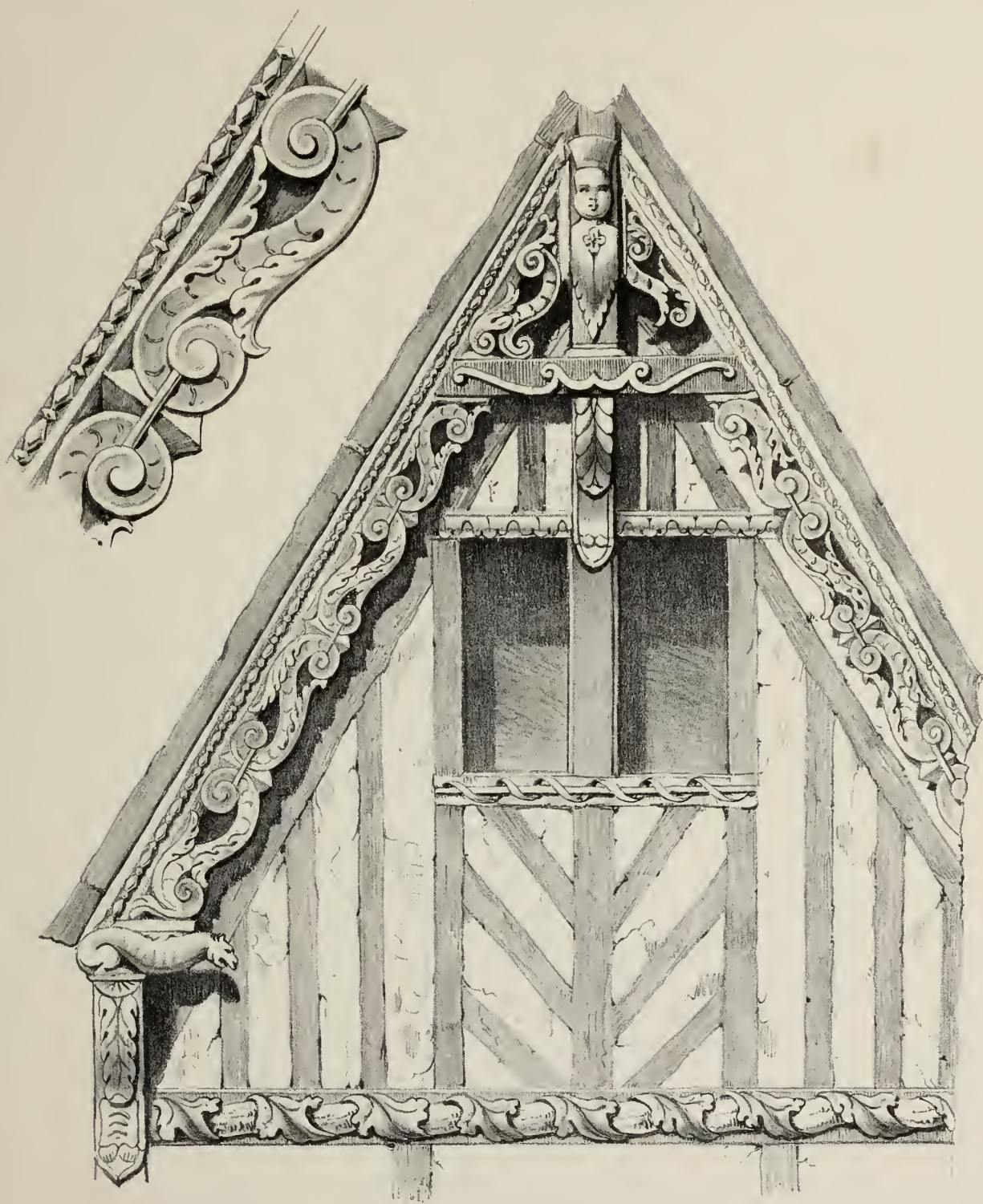
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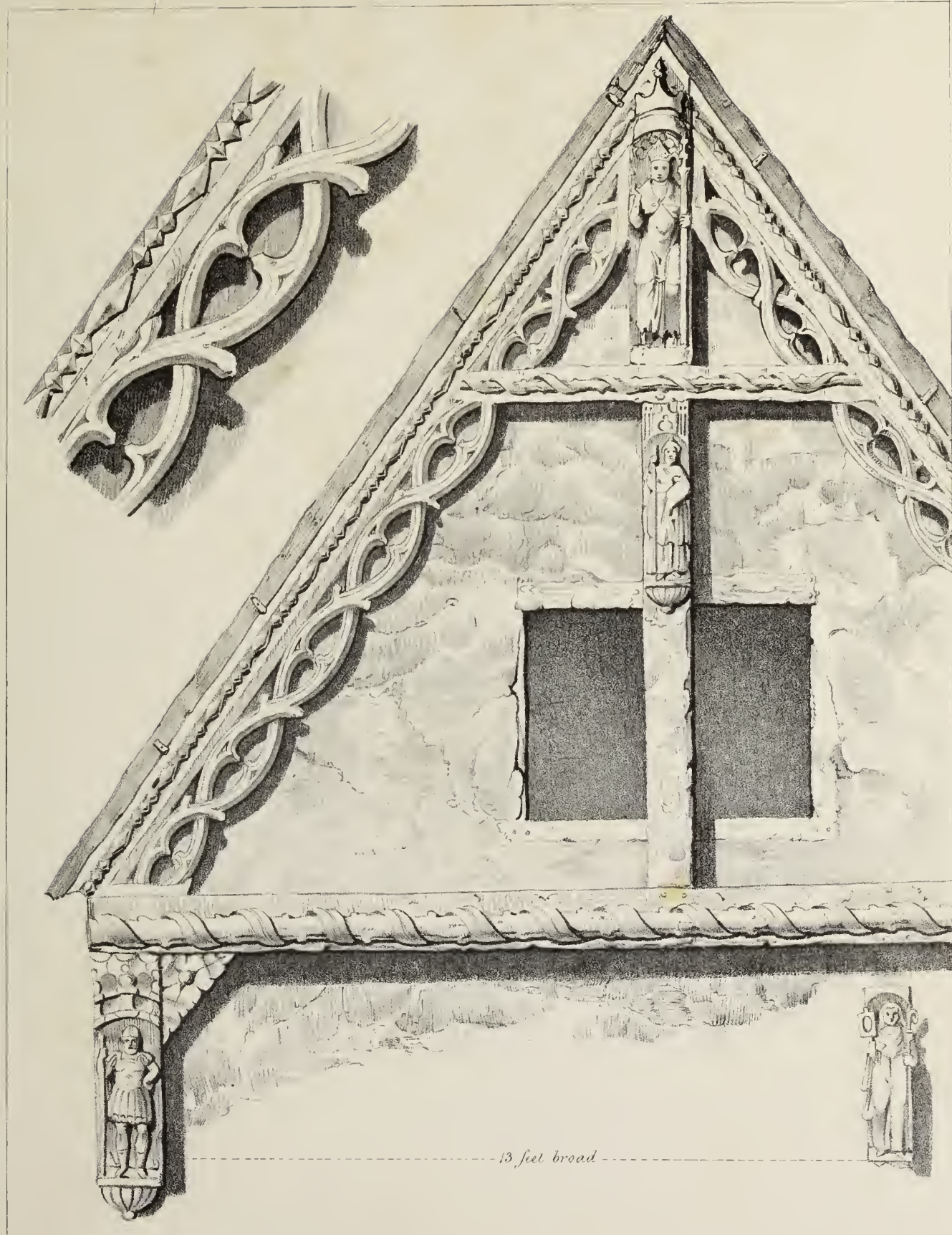


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Drawn on Brass

WOODEN GABLE
RUE DES LINGERS ABBEY
Published with the Plan of the Abbey Garden



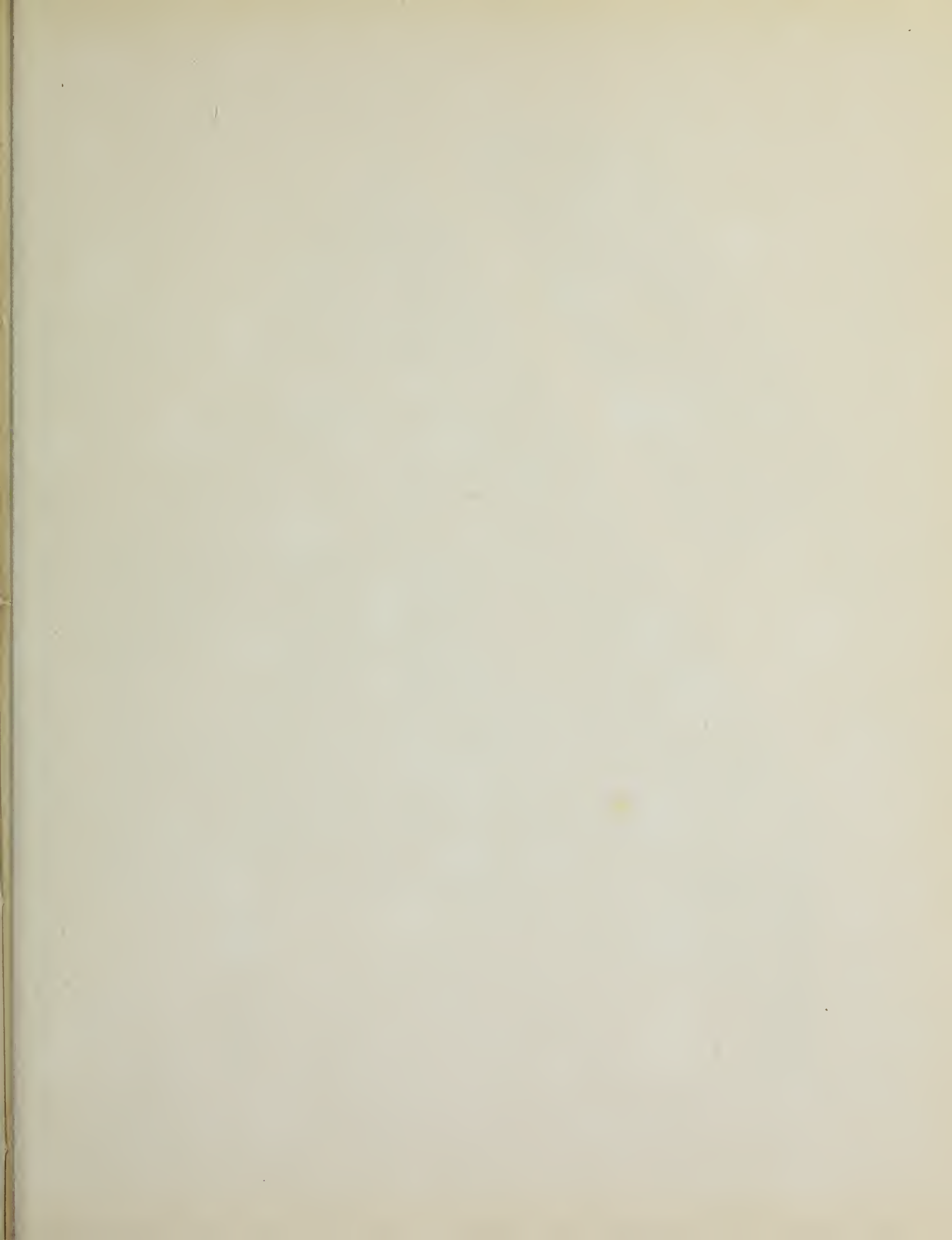


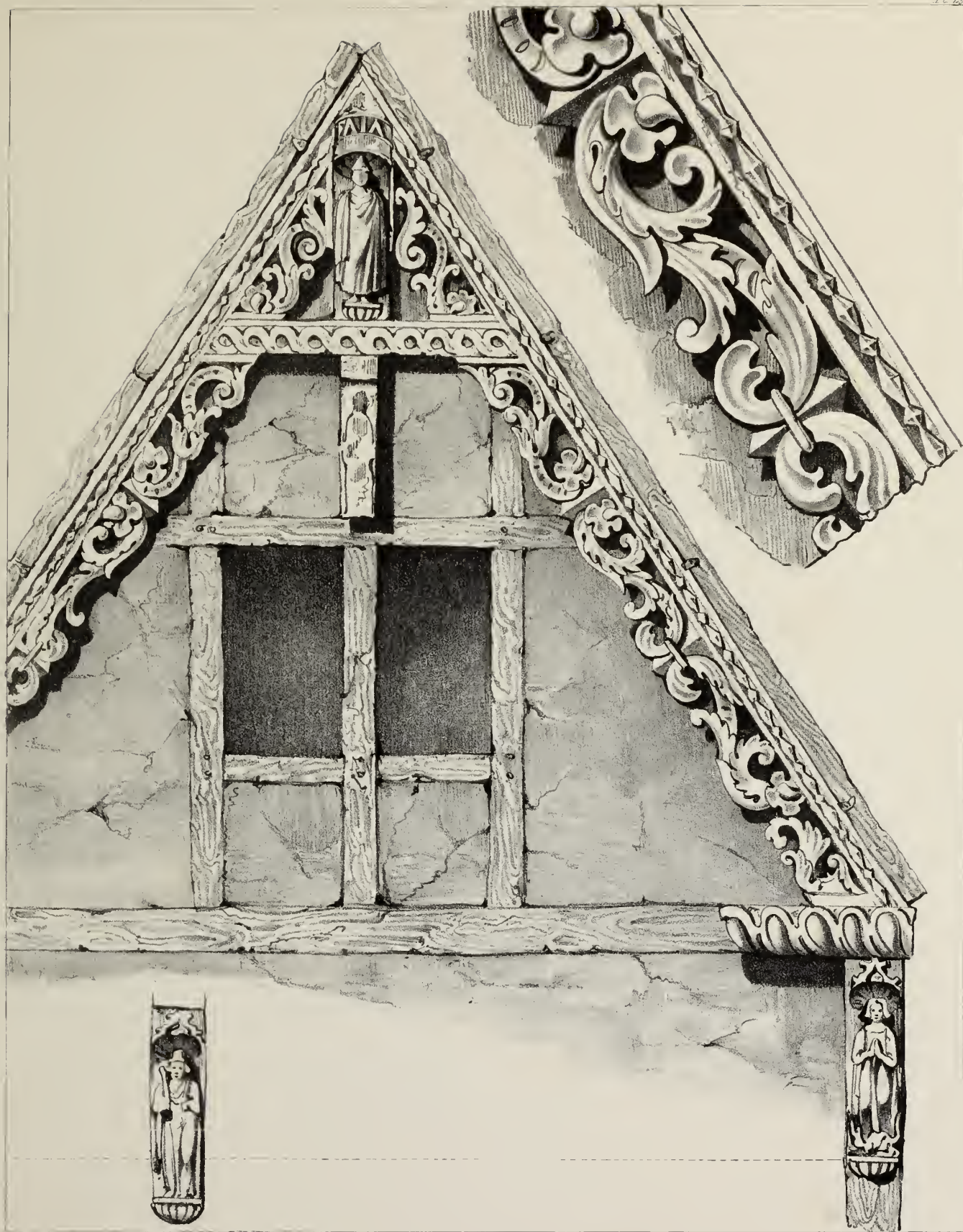
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RUE DE LA HUCHERIE, ABBEVILLE.

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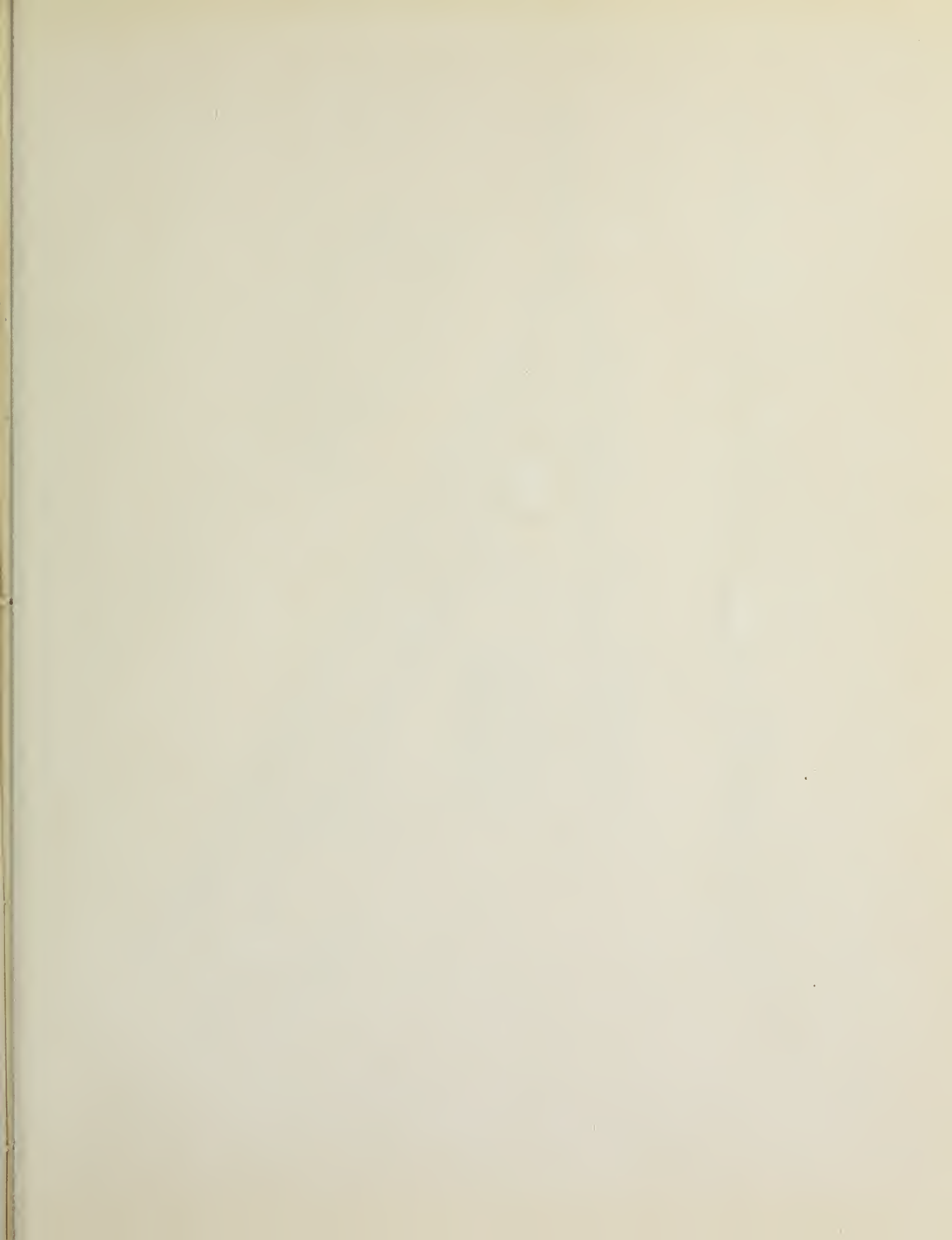


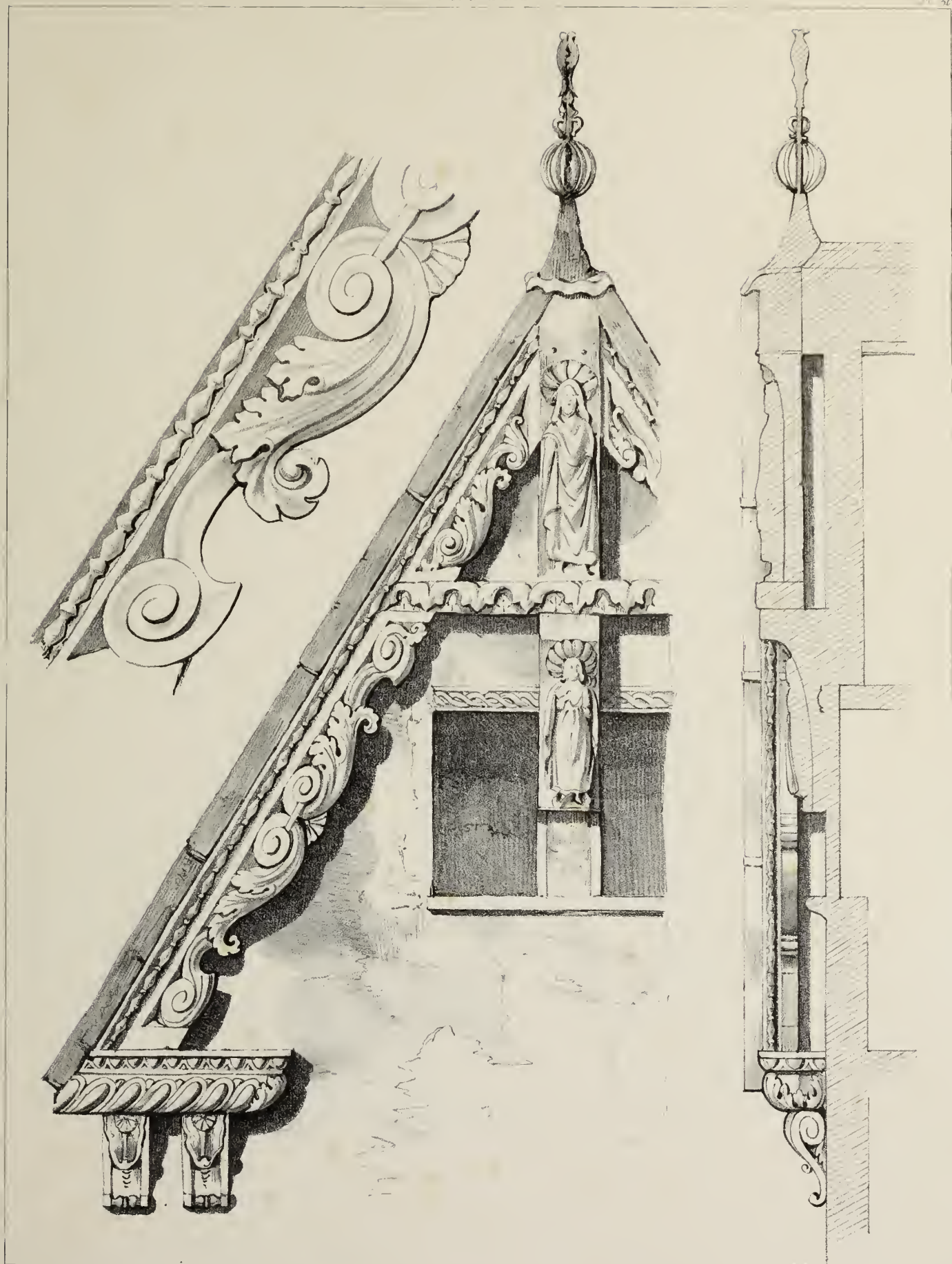
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